## WALSALL

Thursday, February 5, 2015

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Craig puts talents back in the frame



**Grimes helps keep Saddlers' spirits up** 



#### Wembley trip will be a club landmark

THE prospect of a trip to Wembley will 'lift the spirits' of Walsall over the coming months, according to the town's Mayor.

More than 9,000 fans gathered at the Banks's Stadium to cheer the team on against Preston North End, with hundreds joining their heroes on the pitch to celeheroes on the pitch to cele-brate at the final whistle.

brate at the final whistle.

Mayor Pete Smith said.

"As the Mayor of Walsall, I
would like to congratulate
everyone associated with
the club on the tremendous news that Walsall FC
will be playing at Wembley
Stadium in the final of the
Johnstone Paint Trophy.

"This achievement is a
landmark in both the club's
127-year history and indeed
the town's history and due

127-year history and indeed the town's history and due credit to everyone who has played a part in bringing the Saddlers to this high point, not least those fans who have been loyal supporters of the club through thick and thin.

"The whole of the borough is proud of the club's achievement and will be cheering on the Saddlers as they prepare for and then take part the Wembley cup final on March 22. The seven-week build up to the final will lift the spirits of the people of Walsall."

## **Ticket details**

TICKET prices for the Saddlers visit to Wembley in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final have been announced.

The club released details on the 20,000 initially allocated tickets, which will be priced from £20 to £60 for adults and £10 to £30 for connections. Tickets hold. concessions. Ticket holders will get them first from February 6, then supporters with ticket history this season from February 13, before fans with history from previous seasons on February 20, any left will be available on the 27th.

Fans can by up to six tick-

ets each.

• More - Page 8, 9 & 51

# R HOSPITAL

WALSALL Manor Hospital faces a financial blackhole of almost £13 million this year due to increased costs and demand, healthcare bosses say.

The extra pressure experienced during the The extra pressure experienced during the Christmas and New Year period means the health trust is predicting the financial situation to be worse than last predicted.

Bosses at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, which manages the hospital, habeen preparing for a 79 million deficit for the end of the financial year in March, but now this is expected to be at around £12.9m.

The trust was forced to extra patients a week be-

The trust was forced to declare a major incident at the beginning of January.

Last year the trust made a surplus, but it has been faced with increased costs from rising patient numbers over the past 12 months.

In a report to the trust board, chief executive Richard Kirby, said: "We continue to overspend sig-nificantly as we seek to maintain quality in the face of increased demand and recover elective and emer-gency care performance.

#### Capacity

"At the end of December we have a deficit of £7.8m. The impact of the pressures that we have faced over the holiday period has increased our forecast deficit."

Head of finance Lan

Head of finance Ian Baines added: "The trust has reviewed financial per-formance and is forecasting a potential deficit of £12.9m at close of the financial year and is reviewing this forecast in conjunction with the NHS Trust Development Authority."

Emergency admissions at the hospital have rocketed by more than a quarter in

the last two years. It faced one of its busiest periods ever and was pushed to full capacity, with almost 100 extra patients a week between the end of December and early January.

The hospital was forced to declare a major incident at the height of its problems, with more bed space created and staff drafted in to deal with the sudden influx of patients. The trust has been battling the use of temporary staff which has added to costs.

The director of nursing has drawn up £4m proposals which would see more than 80 nurses and 35 care support workers recruited.

Health bosses have agreed to the need for more nurses, but will take a further look at the financial aspect of the seckem before rushing

at the financial aspect of the scheme before pushing ahead with the investment.

The hospital has also struggled to hit targets.

struggled to hit targets.
The national target is for 95 per cent of accident and emergency patients to be seen within four hours but just 67 per cent and 70 per cent respectively were seen at Walsall Manor for the works coding January 4 and at Walsall Manor for the weeks ending January 4 and 11. However, in the week ending January 25, 82 per cent of patients were seen within the first four hours. Nurses – Page 5

Matty makes his stand for skate park



Matty Keating, aged 12, and friends launch a campaign for a new skate area at Clayhanger Park, in Brownhills

A YOUNG skater fed-up with the lack of local play areas for children his age has set up a campaign for a skate park.

Matty Keating, aged 12, wrote to his local councillors and MP Sir Richard Shepherd in a bid to get the skate area built in Clayhanger Park in Brownhills.

The Bishop Vesey's Grammar School pupil believes that more should be provided at the park in Church Street for children his age.

Matty, who got his first scooter 18 months ago, said: "I like to go on my scooter after school and at weekends but I have to ask my parents to drive

me to the skate park in Cannock. We get moaned at if we sit indoors playing on the computer and we get moaned at if we play on our scooters in the street."

Councillor Marco Longhi has offered advice and support to the young campaigner. He said: "He contacted me for help and his letter made my heart melt, he is just a fantastic example for his age. I am now planning with his parents the best way forward. I am happy to help." happy to help.

Matty said: "Mr Longhi told me I can talk at a meeting and tell council-lors what we need. There's lots of us

that like to skate. It would be really good if it happens, I would be really happy." The youngster recently spent his Christmas money on a better model scooter and he now hopes to improve so he can enter eventually competitions. He said: "Now it's just for fun and exercise but I would like to get better and enter competitions."

His mother, Stephanie Keating, said: "His friend sent a letter too and an email to a number of organisations, including Sport England and the lot-

"It was their own idea and Matty wrote the letter out himself.

#### 54 jobs to be axed as service is hit by cuts

RING-AND-RIDE services across the West Midlands are shedding 54 jobs as budget cuts of £700,000 start to take effect.

West Midlands Special Needs Transport runs the Ring-and-Ride service for elderly and disabled people who cannot use public transport. The jobs will go at the end of March.

Union bosses are in discussions with staff to help them try and find new jobs. In December it was revealed 22 driver and scheduler jobs

In December it was revealed by 2 driver and scheduler jobs were at risk as the company tried to cope with a £700,000 cut in its budget.

The charity operates the Ring-and-Ride service across Walsall and other

areas.

Around 22,000 people use the service, which offers door-to-door transport for people unable to use buses, trams and trains.

Unite union regional of-ficer Caren Evans said it

ficer Caren Evans said it had been confirmed that 54 people had been made redundant, with 38 workers taking part-time roles or transferring to other roles within the company.

She said the union's learning team will begin working with affected staff next week, providing training and help with things like CVs, interviews, IT skills and transferable skills to help them find new jobs.

#### Flying visit from Eddie

SKI jumper Eddie 'The Ea-gle' Edwards will entertain a rotary club with tales from the 1988 Winter Olympics.

He was the first person to represent Great Britain in the sport. His performance made him a celebrity, and he is now a fixture of the after dinner circuit.

Now he will treat Aldridge Rotary Club to anecdotes from his career on March 19 at Aston Wood Golf Club, Sutton Coldfield.

He will be joined by the comedian Tony Wallace.

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CONTENTS	
Peter Rhodes	4
Letters	7
Focus On	16
What's On	22
TV listings	24-26
Puzzle page	27
Property	28
Motoring	42
Sport	51-52
CONTACT US	

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## Teen's destructive path 'predictable' Chief joy

IT was 'predictable' that a teenager who died after a fire at a care home would eventually cause harm to herself or others after her behaviour was not controlled, a serious

our was not controlled, a serious case review has found.

A series of 52 recommenda-tions have been made to a series of agencies following a review into the death of Kelly Button who was under the care of Walsall children's

services. The 17-year-old died in a fire in the bedroom of Bagley Marsh Care Home, near Ellesmore, Shrop-shire, in December 2012.

Care Home, near Ellesmore, Shropshire, in December 2012.
She placed a mattress against her door which she locked from the inside and then set fire to the mattress. An inquest confirmed her death was accidental as a result of smoke inhalation from the fire.
Walsall's Safeguarding Children
Walsall's Safeguarding Children's Services for nearly two years and lived in several children's

Board has published the findings of a review into the circumstances surrounding her death.

bridgeshire and Shropshire.

It has come up with 52 recom-

mendations for a series of organisa-tions including Walsall Children's Services, West Mercia Police, Shrop-shire CCG, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Shropshire CCG, Shropshire Children's Social Care, Shrewsbury Community NHS Trust, Shrews-bury & Telford NHS Trust.

## **Accused nurse cleared** over death of widow

#### Farm is banger on target



Butchery assistant Amy Foster has a big smile for sausages at the fruit farm

A FARM has been championing the importance of a hearty breakfast with its

prize-winning sausages.
Essington Fruit Farm marks Farmhouse
Breakfast Week each year, and farm boss
Richard Simkin said they decided to have a

bit of fun with it this year.
Held between January 25 and 31, the national week was first held in 2000, and encourages people to make changes to their routine, reminding them that breakfast is the most important meal of the day.

Customers who visited the Bognop Road farm last week had the chance to do a blind taste test to try and identify the flavours of five of the farm's free range, homemade

iges. Simkin said: "It has been creating excitement. I can't divulge a result yet but most people are getting some of them easily, and really struggling with the other ones. They have been taking it quite seriously and spent quite a bit of time sampling be-fore they fill the forms in."

A NURSE from Walsall has been cleared of the manslaughter of a 91-year-old widow at a care home after a judge dismissed the case.

Nursing Home in Little Aston ahead of her death. At Birmingham Crown Court, Mr Justice William Dyas

the brain.

the fractured femur, which they said contributed to her death, was caused by the de-fendant moving or handling

Lane, Reedswood, nad de-nied any wrong-doing. Mr Justice Dyas said: "The evidence does not begin to demonstrate that Mr Rajan was involved. It

He directed that the nurse should be found not guilty of

Stater and Gordon that represented the nurse, said: "Mr Rajan has always been very clear about his innocence and would like to thank the judge for direct-

West Midlands chief

Santhosh Rajan, aged 39, was accused of the mishandling of grandmother Iris Teale at Aston Court

The prosecution claimed

point in my judgement. The evidence is simply not

the offence.
Sue Swan, of law firm
Slater and Gordon that ing the jury to return a not guilty verdict.

her in a negligent manner.

Mr Rajan, of Bentley
Lane, Reedswood, had de-

har Rajan was involved. It is a mystery and I am afraid that mysteries cannot be solved unless there is some evidence to solve them.

"The case falls at this is the solution of the case in the solution of the case is the solution of the case in the solution of the solut





#### Santhosh Raian, aged 39

crown prosecutor Grace Ononiwu said: "On the ev-idence available to us prior to the trial, the Crown Prosecution Service was satisfied that is was appropriate to prosecute Mr Santhosh Rajan for the manslaughter of Mrs Iris Teale.

of Mrs Iris Teale.
"There was a realistic
prospect of conviction for
the offence of manslaughter
and it was in the public interest to prosecute.
"Having heard the evidence tested at the trial, the
court found that there was

court found that there was no case to answer and that Mr Rajan was not guilty of manslaughter. Our deepest sympathies are extended to the family of Mrs Teale."

## over fall in jobless for young

A fall in youth unemployment in the Black Country has been welcomed by a regeneration chief.

generation chief.

The number of young people claiming Job Seekers Allowance in Walsall has reduced, according to latest figures. Statistics released last week showed there were 4,965 claimants, down 276 the previous month, a 53 per cent since a peak in February 2013.

Council bosses have high-

Council bosses have high-lighted the Walsall Works programme, which has placed more than 460 young people into apprenticeship and 396 into pre-appren-ticeship opportunities with ticeship opportunities with local businesses over the last three years.

Regeneration chief, CouncillorMohammad Nazir said:
"It is really encouraging to see unemployment figures in Walsall continue to fall. "There is no doubt that our Walsall Works scheme

our Waisall Works scheme has played a role in this, as well as our employment growth team who continue to work with our businesses to identify work opportuni-ties for local people.

"There are some exciting developments which will create more jobs opportunities in a few months time and we'll be working to ensure local people benefit."

#### Raids spark daily patrols

A SPATE of burglaries has taken place in Walsall, nas taken place in waisan, prompting police to step up daily patrols. There have been at least five properties which have been hit and at-tempts on two more in Pel-sall and Shelfield since the start of the year.

start of the year.

Dwellings in Walsall
Road, Leyland Croft, Wolverhampton Road and
Norton Road, Pelsall, were
targeted. This is along with
addresses in New Street,
Fenbourne Close and Hawthorn Road in Shelfield.

Police teams in the area are now urging residents to secure properties.

#### **Delays warning**

ANOTHER phase of road-works during a water main replacement scheme will start next week. A road closure on Raven-scourt Road will start be-

tween the junctions of Pool Hayes Lane and Ashmore Lake Road and will be in operation until February 24.



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## leave pile of rubbish at pub site

FLY-TIPPERS dumped tons

FIN-TIPPERS dumped tons of rubbish outside a closed Willenhall pub after security fencing was forced down. Piles of the household trash was dropped next to the former site of the Brown Jug public house in Sandbeds Road.

The privately owned.

Deds Road.

The privately-owned building, which has been unoccupied for three to four years, was subject of a failed attempt to turn it into a mediant. attempt to turn it into a mi-ni-supermarket last year. A

planning application for the proposal was turned down.

The site has since been described as a 'danger hazard'.

Coupsillon, Jon Shires

ard'.
Councillor Ian Shires spotted the rubbish and believes it is not fair on people living nearby. He said: "This is just one of a series of times this has happened, but this incident is by far the worst and most blatant."
Council officers will

Council officers will look to get the damage to the fence fixed and start a search through the rubbish to help identify the culprits. Meanwhile, councillors in Short Heath have demanded that the council consider investing in both the Brown Jug site and the site adjacent where a number of part-built homes have remained unfinished for several years.

#### **Mutilation** issue call

AN MP has called for tougher action on the 'barbaric custom' of female genital mutilation in Britain.

Walsall North MP David Winnick said France was leading the way in tackling the issue.

He told the House of Com-He told the House of Commons: "The information given to us by a number of witnesses was that although prosecutions in Britain have been very few – there have been hardly any, although been nardy any, atthough the first are now taking place – in France there have been 40, and sentences have been imposed. Why should there be that difference?"

#### 15 jobs at firm

AN energy supplier is expanding its service to cover Walsall, creating 15 new jobs. Utilità Energy, which specialises in smart meter technology, is to take on customers in the town. The Hampshire-based company says the move will create 15 sales positions in the area.

## Fly-tippers Historic gates restored after vandalism



With the restored gates, Councillor Paul Bott

HISTORIC park gates dating more than 90 years have been restored after a spate of vandalism.

The gates at George Rose Park in Darlaston were vandalised in two sep-arate attacks over the past two years, which saw the gates uprooted and left trashed on the ground.

The Friends of Darlaston South Parks

worked to secure funding for the restoration of the gates which cost £1200.

It took two months to repair the gates

and they were unveiled in the park on Wolverhampton Street on Saturday by Councillors Paul Bott and Chris Bott.

Mr Bott spearheaded the campaign to get the gates restored and said: the gates were vandalised the shapes were badly distorted and parts of the pillars were broken off."

He added: "The gates are a very important part of the history of Darlaston because 2000 people were unemployed in Darlaston in 1924.

"A councillor called George Rose se-cured funding to change the pit mounds and slag heaps and build a park. He was creating a better environment for the people of Darlaston."

The gates, which have also been decorated with a large poppy emblem to create a war memorial, were first moved after plans were approved in 2011 for building work on a new Grace Academy school, which swallowed up half of the paighbouring park neighbouring park.

## **Council funding for pupils'** travel costs facing the axe

across Walsall will be scrapped under plans to save almost £100,000, it has emerged. Young people who attend faith schools will not get

bus passes under the council's cost-cutting measures. It is also planned to restrict travel funding for families who send a child with special needs to a school out of the borough which is not recommended

by the council.

Transport for children from school to respite providers could also be removed in an overall bid to save £95,000 over the next two years. There are eight faith schools in Walsall. The cuts

schools in Walsall. The cuts will only affect new pupils.

The council is having to make £29 million worth of savings during this financial year. Members of the decision-making cabinet were due to approve the school travel cuts when they met last night, Wednesday.

The removal of passes will

The removal of passes will not apply to families who receive free school meals or working tax credit. Darrell Harman, head of

Darrell Harman, head of children's commissioning, said: "This report seeks cab-inet approval to implement budget proposals to reduce expenditure by removing discretionary bus passes for pupils who choose to attend faith schools, reduce ex-penditure on children with special educational needs attending schools outside of the borough and remove travel assistance between school and respite care.

#### by Craig Hughes

The council will continue to meet its statutory requirements and obligations."

It adds: "Analysis of the

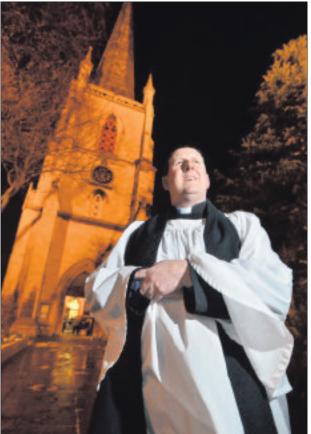
It adds: "Analysis of the risk has been undertaken and some of the changes will be implemented in a phased way to support families until their children achieve statutory school leaving age

statutory school leaving age at 16.
"If these proposals are agreed they will deliver savings as part of overall budget reductions by the council." It comes as overall budget proposals are due to be agreed at full council later this month. Bosses have recently revised the budget plan, cutting almost £1.6m from the £86m initially needed in savings for the next four years. the next four years.

the next four years.
Plans to cut funding to community associations have been axed while moves to charge £28 for garden waste collections have been dropped after 70 per cent of people who took part in a consultation said they would not pay.

#### Group hosts authors event

AUTHORS from the Black Country have joined forces with a local publishing company and bookshop to raise funds for charity. As part of national storytelling week, The Penguin's Head publishing group has organised for avid readers and writers to take part in a short story reading event to help raise money for The Alzheimer's Society. The event will be held on February 7, at Southcart books on Lower Hall Lane, Walsall, from 11am to 3pm.



Rev James Trood, who has been inducted as the new priest in charge

## Rector unveiled at church service

FOCUSING on continuing to attract both the young and old to Walsall's St Matthew's Church is the ambi-tion for its new rector.

The Rev Jim Trood was sworn in before 400 church

sworn in before 400 church goers at special induction and licensing service.

Rev Trood replaces former leader Rev Colin Gibson, who left to take up another post after 10 years in charge. He joined the church in April 2002.

Rev Trood said he was looking forward to the challenge following the induction last Thursday. He said:

"The service was fantastic.

"The service was fantastic. Myself and my family were

Myself and my family were made to feel very welcome. I have already started meeting people in the congregation. That will be my main calling at first."

Rev Trood arrives at St Matthew's from Tamworth where he was a vicar for nine years. Originally from Leighton Buzzard in Bedfordshire, Rev Trood worked for 10 years as a teacher in Scarborough and then trained in Nottingham where he did a two year theology course in 2000.

where he did a two year the-ology course in 2000. He then moved to Black-pool and then Tamworth. He said: "I want to make St Matthew's a place people can come and feel welcome."

#### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### 33 homes scheme for former pub site

PLANS for 33 new homes to transform the rundown site of a former Willenhall pub have been lodged.

Eighteen flats and 15 houses will be built where the Cavalcade once stood in Stroud Avenue.

Residents have long called for the 'eyesore' site to be redeveloped since the pub was demolished around five years ago.

Applicant Bob Dhanda said the scheme would 'sigsaid the scheme would sig-nal the start of a new era for the site'. The area has suffered from anti-social behaviour and been a tar-get for fly-tipping.

#### Ramblers head out to Shropshire

A WALKING group in Walsall is inviting new members to take part at its next

The Walsall Group of the Ramblers will be heading to Tuckhill, near Bridgnorth for the Tuckhill Traverse on Sunday.

The seven mile circular route is a gentle walk across bridleways and field paths. Non-members can contact the walk leader for more information on 01922 621148. Details on the ramblers are available at www.walsallramblers.

More buses put

#### on in Pheasey

MORE buses have been put on in Pheasey to re-duce waiting times for passengers caused by road-works. Work on the M6 has caused congestion around junction seven at Great

junction seven at Great Barr, resulting in buses be-ing delayed.

It has impacted on ser-vices in the area includ-ing routes 33, 51, 934, 935, 936, 997 and the X51 and X56. The extra buses began on Monday.

#### £250,000 pitch for all weathers due

A NEW £250,000 floodlit

A NEW £250,000 floodlit all-weather pitch will be built at a university complex in Walsall.

The pitch will be at Aston University's sports campus, off Birmingham Road, after the proposal was approved by Walsall Council.

The project has received funding from Sport England.

#### Jumble sale due

A JUMBLE sale will take place at Darlaston Meth-odist Church. The event, selling an array of bargains, will start at 2pm on Thursday, Feb-ruary 5. Tea and coffee will be available.







The Smile Centre Matthew Burnell - Clinical Dental Technician

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## THE BEST OF

I HAVE just encountered my first 1914-2014 commemorative £2 coin with Lord Gray's epic words inscribed on the edge: "The lamps are going out all over Europe." What happens if you put it in an electricity meter?

MIXED metaphors. Auntie Beeb's online report on the MIXED metaphors. Auntie Beeb's online report on the consecration of the first Coff Female bishop informed us: "While Anglicanism is a broad church, so to speak, they need to keep paddling hard to keep all its members on board." Damn right. Once you stop paddling, the grapes of wrath come home to roost.

IT is a terrible tragedy that a Greek air force F16 fighter jet crashed in Spain, killing 11 people. But it is also a reminder that poor, bankrupt Greece, a country at peace since 1949, possesses no fewer than 156 F16s costing 50 million dollars each. That's the way the money goes.

ANOTHER word bites the dust. According to the head of BBC Arabic, Tarik Kafala, the word "terrorist" is too "value-laden" and "loaded" He suggests reporters should say: "Two men killed 12 people" and leave it at that. One man's opinion appears to have become BBC policy which may explain why this week's terror attack by terrorists in Libya who inflicted terror on their terrified victims before killing them in a particularly terrifying manner, was not – according to the BBC – carried out by terrorists at all. They were "militants." The sooner we scrap the TV licence fee, the better.

A READER continues the thread on the grammatical difference between "fewer" and "less" and on pedantry in general. He writes: "Pedants are like little Hitlers. There ought to be fuhrer of them."



ED Balls says Labour is not considering a deal with the SNP to form a coalition government. Or to be exact, what he actually said was: "I don't think anybody is suggesting any suggestion of a deal with the SNP at all, we're deal with the SNP at all, we're fighting hard for a majority."
Lots of wriggle-room there, then. Meanwhile, what is it with Ed Balls and his eyes? At every hint that the UK economy may be in trouble, bic used Eliter with pure deal. his eyes glitter with pure glee. Unseemly, or what?

IF you're getting blasé about Ebola, here's some-thing new to worry about. The death, in the space of a few hours of Thomas Crom-

well's wife and two daughters, as seen in Wolf Hall (BBC1) well is wife and two daugnters, as seen in Wolf Hall (BBC I) actually happened. It was probably caused by something called the sweating sickness which appeared from nowhere, ravaged England during the 16th century and then vanished into history. It could kill healthy people in a single day and because nobody knows quite what it was, no-one can guarantee it won't return.

THE plan to scrap dozens of generals' jobs to cut the Army's top brass down to size inevitably sparks the old debate on the Royal Navy which is also top-heavy. But it is hard to compare the number of admirals (40) with the is nate to compare the number of adminals (40) with the number of warships because there seem to be dozens of ways of defining a warship. The smallest figure is a paltry 19 but the RN insists the real figure is 77. However, in order to reach the total of 77, they include a rather old ship which, largely for sentimental reasons, is still on the navy's strength. HMS Victory.

SO farewell, Lotte Hass, widow of Hans, who has died SO larewell, Lottle Hass, wildow of Haris, with has died aged 86. Back in the 1950s the Hasses hosted a series of underwater films on telly, taking us kids to the depths of the Caribbean or wherever. Lotte, a beautiful, svelte, blonde former model, would slip into her cozzie, enter the limpid water and glide serenely across our nine-inch Pye. As a very small and impressionable boy I remember thinking if I couldn't marry Maid Marion, I'd settle for Lotte.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes** every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

## Extra £24m to fund key schemes Top firms'

THE Government has promised the Black Country another £24 million of growth money to fund key pro-

jects.
The cashpot comes on top of the £138 million Growth Deal for the

Black Country secured last summer.

The latest pledge will go towards
the expansion of Wolverhampton
City College, new homes in Walsall and hi-tech railway centre in Dudley. Previous funding is paying for a string of developments including a radical revamp for the Civic Halls in Wolverhampton and a major expansion of Junction 10 of the M6 at Walsall.

The Government has moved to for three more projects.

The additional schemes include:

The creation of a Light Rail

Innovation Centre in Dudley which will specialise in prototype vehicle design and construction, as well as providing education, and research and development facilities to local

and development facilities to local businesses. It will receive £4.5m.

The strategic development of Wolverhampton City College to support at least 3,000 learners and 50 businesses.

• Around £6m to help to bring

forward sites for housing and jobs, including £2.3m in Sandwell, and £400,000 towards the development of Walsall Waterfront.

The Growth Deal in the Black

The Growth Deal in the Black Country is being run by the Local Enterprise Partnership. Black Country LEP chairman Stewart Towe said: "The expansion of the Black Country Growth Deal is

## Pirate scene that cost film industry millions

A GLOBAL search for members of an underground film piracy racket has led to the Black Country.

Named 'The Scene', the shadowy online gang has

cost Hollywood millions of pounds and been responsible for thousands of movies, television shows, music, games and ebooks being made available for free

on the internet.
Now, in a world first, five men have pleaded guilty to being involved in the crimi-

being involved in the criminal enterprise.
Following a three-year investigation, Sahil Rafiq, aged 24, of Warnford Road, Merry Hill, Wolverhampton, and 33-year-old Ben Cooper, of Dilloways Lane, Willenhall, have admitted conspiracy to defrand

hall, have admitted conspiracy to defraud.

They were joined at Wolverhampton Crown Court by Reece Baker, aged 22, from Digby House, Colletts Grove, Birmingham; Scott Hemming, 25, of Perry Common Road, Birmingham; and Graeme Reid, 40, of Kingsclere Walk, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

#### Movies

Together, they were part of a plot believed to have resulted in copies of up to 9,000 films being watched by as many as five million people in less than four years

people in less than four years.

The copyrighted material includes blockbuster movies, high-profile TV series, computer games, music, online apps, ebooks and pornography.

The defendants were involved in the piracy of films between March 2010 and January 2014. And it is alleged that groups either

and January 2014. And it is alleged that groups either involving them personally or set up by them illegally posted between 7,000 and 9,000 movies online. Federation Against Copyright Theft said this was the

first time anywhere in the world that members of The Scene had been prosecuted for core activities.Rafiq,

Cooper, Baker, Hemming and Reid each pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud, in that they conspired together, and with others unknown, to defraud such persons as have an interest in films by making, copying, distributing or making available on line infringing

ing, distributing or making available on line infringing copies of films.

No further evidence was given but the court heard there were 7,000 pages of exhibits.

The film pirates were each The film pirates were each released on bail and will be sentenced later in the year when the full depth of the case will be outlined.

Recorder Nicholas Cart-

Recorder Nicholas Cart-wright warned them: "The fact I am adjourning the case and giving you bail should not be taken as any indication of what the sen-

Members of The Scene go to great lengths to con-ceal their true identity and use tags or codes to identify themselves online to other members of the racket.

They get hold of the material through a variety of methods. Some use camcorders to record films at the cinema as soon as they

the cinema as soon as they have been released, with the race being on to be the first to provide a free copy online. Others make duplicates from 'screeners', which are advance screenings sent to critics, film festival judges or on panels deciding awards such as the Oscars and other film industry professionals.

## Lucky escape caught on CCTV



CCTV footage shows the low loader veering into the emergency refuge area

THIS is the jaw-dropping moment an RAC driver had a 'miraculous' escape after a lor-ry ploughed into him while he fixed a car at side of the M6.

Mark Wootton was working in an emergency refuge area on April 28 last year when the low loader careered into him then drove off. The 40-year-old was found 'screaming off. The 40-year-old was found 'screaming in agony' by another driver and was rushed to hospital where X-rays revealed he had suffered two fractured vertebrae.

CCTV footage released by West Midlands Police shows how lorry driver Terence Poolman, aged 69, lost control and smashed into the unsuspecting RAC worker.

The 24-second video shows the yellow low-loader swerving from the inside lane to the hard shoulder before crushing Mr Wootton against the broken down car.

Another lorry driver saw Mr Wootton in pain at the side of the northbound carriage-

pain at the side of the northbound carriage-

pain at the side of the northbound carriage-way and dialled 999.

Motorway CCTV cameras failed to pick up the low loader's number plate but police managed to track it down using a catering van seen travelling behind.

The driver had been so shocked he jotted down the registration plate and police were able to trace it to to a depot in Shifnal.

Poolman, of Shifnal, was interviewed but claimed to have no memory of the collision.

He pleaded guilty to causing serious in-

He pleaded guilty to causing serious in-jury by dangerous driving and was jailed for

The lorry crashes into Mr Wootton

eight months and banned from driving for two years at Birmingham Crown Court. Prosecutor Mark Phillips said Mr Woot-ton had been called to a breakdown between junctions six and seven. He had towed the vehicle from the hard shoulder to the refuge area and was attaching safety lights when he was struck by Poolman. The court heard Mr Wootton may not be

able to return to his job as an emergency

able to return to his job as an emergency recovery driver.

Laura Culley, defending, said it was a mystery how the incident occurred. She said Poolman had not been speeding or tired and had undergone a medical assess-ment which had not revealed any problem.

## **fortunes** continue to grow

THE 200 biggest West Midlands companies have con-tinued their post-recession revival, scoring a hat-trick of increasing revenues, prof-its and international sales, according to a new report.

according to a new report.
The top 200 companies
in the West Midlands Report 2015, from accountants
BDO, saw net profits increase by 52 per cent to £7.6
billion, compared to £5bn
the previous year. Group
revenues grew by 13 per
cent to £124bn.

cent to £124bn.
International sales also flourished, more than doubling from £14.4bn to £31.4bn in just two years, with overseas expansion being described as 'the guiding principle' for growth for regional businesses.
There are 34 Black Country businesses in the top

There are 34 Black Country businesses in the top 200 with a combined turnover of £12.5bn, including AF Blakemore & Son, Poundland and Assa Abloy in Willenhall, Barhale and Castings in Walsall, East End Foods in West Brom End Foods in West Brom-wich, Sandvik and Eriks in Halesowen, Geopost in Smethwick, Brindley Ga-rages and Tangent Trading in Dudley.

Also listed are 17 Staf-

Also listed are 17 Stat-fordshire firms including Al-stom in Stafford, Palletways in Lichfield, Briggs Equip-ment in Cannock and JCB.

#### **Police calls** hit by fault

YEMERGENCY 999 calls in the West Midlands were de layed after a technical fault

People phoning 999 for police assistance last Wednesday (January 28) were diverted to the Staffordshire force instead.

Problems were reported with the non-emergence with the non-emergency 101 number at the same time, with people being left

The issue lasted around

an hour before engineers fixed the fault.

A West Midlands Police spokesman said: "The technical fault has now been fixed."

#### **Shop deal signed**

A NEW Cash Converters store is opening in Bloxwich. The firm has agreed a 10-year lease to take a unit in the high street.

It comes as the group continues its expansion programme across the West Midlands where it has around 20 stores.



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## **Praise for** children's homes in inspection

THREE children's homes in the Black Country have been praised following Ofsted inspections. Council chiefs in Walsall have hailed the reports of Contemplate. the reports as 'extremely positive' for looked after children.

The homes have not been identified by the council for reasons relating to the safety of children. One which supports children with physical and learning disabilities was rated outstanding in all categories following an inspection in December 2014.

Another home that looks after older children was recently re-inspected following an inadequate rating and is now rated good overall. The inspector commended staff at the home for meeting all of the requirements from The homes have not been

at the home for meeting all of the requirements from the last inspection.
While a short break home for children with learning disabilities, physical disa-bilities and sensory impair-ments was rated as having improved effectiveness fol-lowing an adequate rating

improved effectiveness following an adequate rating in March last year.
Councillor Barbara Cassidy, portfolio holder for children's services, said: "Thank you to all of the managers and staff at all of our children's homes for your hard work for the children of Walsall."

#### **College open** dav a record

MORE than 100 people flocked to a college open day – its highest attendance for such an event.

The Black Country UTC held the event at Walsall College's Wisemore Campus for its science and engineering courses.

mg courses.
Currently based in Bloxwich, The Black Country UTC will relocate to a new multi-million pound campus in Walsall next September, just yards from the Wisemore Campus.

Principal Paul Averis aid: "We are delighted so many prospective students attended our open day."

#### **Towering tales**

A NEW community project in the Black Country is collecting stories about life living at height in the area's tower blocks. Anyone who would like to tell their story can e-mail distinctlyblack-country@wolverhampton. govuk or telephone 01902 552046.

## Father's fighting back against cancer



Samuel, Matt and Bethany Wakefield

A HATTER-OF-TWO WIGH has beaten cancer twice teamed up with his young twins to launch World Cancer Day.

Matt Wakefield took the decision to have

his sperm frozen when he was diagnosed with testicular cancer aged 20.

His fiancee Corinne gave birth to twins

Samuel and Bethany, now six, in 2008.

The cinema attendant thought he was in the clear until he found a lump in his other

testicle last summer and was diagnosed for cond time

a second time.

He teamed up with his children ahead of yesterday's (Wednesday) World Cancer

Cancer Research UK 'unity band'.
Matt, who works at the Showcase Cinema in Dudley, said: "I was terrified when

ema in Dudley, said: "I was terrined when I was diagnosed with cancer but thanks to research and treatment, I'm still here."
Matt spotted a small lump on his left testicle in October 1999 but didn't worry about it. Eight months later, after it had grown and started to ache, he went to his GP and was referred to heariful trainight away.

was referred to hospital straight away.
Following surgery to remove the testicle Matt was advised to consider sperm banking before undergoing radiotherapy

second lump in his other testicle.

"I found a small lump on the Friday and

by the following Monday I was at my GP surgery getting it checked out." he said. "Luckily I had caught it early. I had surgery to remove the testicle and then one

gery to remove the testicle and then one cycle of chemotherapy, just as a precaution to mop up any stray cancer cells."

Matt added: "I am so grateful for the treatment that saved my life.
"Now I want to do everything I can to urge people to fight back against this devastating disease."

## More nurses on way at Manor in £4m jobs drive

Manor Hospital in a £4 million bid to boost staff levels and cut temporary worker costs.

Health chiefs are looking at hire more than 80 nurses and 35 care support workers across the wards. The hospital, managed by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, has been pushed to capacity in recent weeks with it being forced to declare a major incident at one stage.
The trust already brought

The trust already brought in 100 new nurses last year. Bosses say the investment will expand Walsall Manor Hospital to the size of New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton and Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley.

It will see more staff on days and evenings and amount to an investment of more than £3.1m on nurses and almost £900,000 on

and almost £900,000 on

and almost £900,000 on community support workers. It will result in more workers in around 20 wards, and save up to £600,000 on the bill for temporary and agency staff.

A report from director of nursing Kathryn Halford to the board said it could take another year to fill all the nursing posts following the previous recruitment drive.

previous recruitment drive. She said: "The past two years have seen an increase in the acuity of patients and

in the acuity of patients and for some people an increased length of stay.

"This has resulted in increased pressure within some teams and almost all ward areas at night. She added: "Currently, the trust is supporting the delivery of safe care by using the temporary workforce. The reliance of extra capacity has increased this reliance on

more than a quarter in the

#### Anti-social antics to be tackled

A CCTV camera is being installed and fencing erect-

ed to stop gangs of youths congregating at a site hit by anti-social behaviour. Council chiefs are taking action in Hawbush Road, Walsall following residents' complaints

complaints.

Bushes will also be cut back and access blocked off to the canalside footpath.

Walsall North area man-ager Michael Greenfield said: "The aim is to address a long-standing anti-social behaviour issue and to identify any activities that may be detrimental to the local community."

It comes after piles of rub-

bish were dumped in nearby Slacky Lane, on open space next to the canal.
Gates to the site have now been locked.
Mr Greenfield added:

"There is evidence that a commercial sized vehicle has been driving onto this area for the purpose of fly tipping and feeding horses.

"Waste had also been

increased this reliance on temporary staff."

It emerged earlier this month that emergency ad-missions have rocketed by burnt on site. Arrangements were made to remove the rubbish and securely weld

## Waterway to celebrate canals



Visitor assistant Jyoti Pudden invites people to the 'Life on the cut' exhibition at Walsall Museum

VISITORS to Walsall Museum are lapping up a new display that looks at life on the canals.

The 'Life on the cut' exhibition runs until April 11 at the attraction at the central library building in Lichfield Street. It will celebrate the life, work and nature of the waterways.

Boat-building tools, painted canal ware and the traditional clothing of boat people can be seen, as well as specimens of British wildlife that make their homes in and around the canals. It includes material that was previously displayed at the town's for-mer Birchills Canal Museum, in Old Birchills, which closed 12 years ago.

Many objects were rescued by Wal-sall Museum's staff and added to their permanent collection for residents and future generations to enjoy. Wild-life specimens are on loan from The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, in Stoke-on-Trent.

Entrance to the museum is free. Opening hours are Tuesdays to Fri-

days 10am to 5pm and Saturdays from 10am to 4pm

During the school half term break on February 19 children can enjoy a drop in craft session titled 'Make your own Canal Theatre' from 10.30am to 12.30pm or 1.30 to 3.30pm. The cost is just 75p per child.

On March 3 from 2-3pm, Tony Conder will give a talk titled 'Your Country Calls. A Mainly English His-tory of Canals.' Cost is £2 per person. Book on 01922 653116.

#### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### **Transformation** bid at Scout HQ

A NEW activities area and

A NEW activities area and 15 parking spaces are part of plans to transform a the headquarters of the Walsall Scout Group.

The proposals for the Great Barr Community Hub, Vicarage Rise, have been submitted to council

The centre is also used various other local

by various other local groups.
Under the plans, an activities field and conservation area would be added to the site.

A garage would also be built to house minibuses and equipment used by the scout group.

#### Footballer denies assaulting player

A FOOTBALLER has de-nied assaulting an opposi-tion player who sustained a broken jaw during a match.

Max Black, of Walsall Wood FC, pleaded not guilty to assault causing actual bodily harm at Wal-sall Magistrates Court.

Stourport Swifts player Karl Fellowes was injured during the New Year's Day

Black, aged 21, of Ingle-wood Grove, Streetly, was granted unconditional bail until a trial on June 11.

#### Homes scheme at old pub site

PLANS have been lodged to transform the rundown site of a former Willenhall pub with 33 dwellings.

Eighteen flats and 15 nouses would be built where the Cavalcade once stood in Stroud Avenue.

Mr Bob Dhanda has lodged the application with Walsall Council.

The site has been plagued by anti-social behaviour and become a target for fly-tipping.

#### Homes may come in at site of club

A SOCIAL club in Pelsall is poised to be demolished and replaced with a new building and homes, despite concerns over traffic and parking.
A smaller Pelsall Labour

A smaller Pelsall Labour Club is earmarked under the plans, which will see also see 24 homes built on the land off Church Road. Objections have been

lodged.

#### Plant in forest

ROCK legend Robert Plant is the third and final act to be announced to appear at a series of live outdoor cona series of the outdoor con-certs on Cannock Chase. The West Bromwich-born ex-Led Zeppelin star per-forms on July 11.



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#### IN MY VIEW

THE ITV series Bring Back Borstal finished last week, with programme makers declaring it an unqualified success. Three months after filming ended, not one of the 13 miscreants who were supposedly subjected to the rigours of a 1930s borstal regime, have reoffended. And many of them ended up landing

jobs. Now look, anything which in-Now look, anything which involves gobby louts being turned out of bed at the crack of dawn, being made to dress like Just William and spending their days shovelling manure is fine by me. But I do think it is stretching things branding it 'a unique social experiment'.

For a start, the bad lads had all volunteered to take part in the series, some because they wanted to turn their lives around, wanted or unifer lives addition, others probably because they thought it might make minor celebrities out of them. If White Dee can manage it, why not?

How many 1930s borstals allowed inmates to leave at any time if they didn't feel at home?

And there probably aren't that many young offenders who, on their first day in custody, politely concede: 'I think I just need to grow up a bit'.

Even more ridiculous was the way the boys reacted when they

were thrown out for bad behav

were thrown out for bad behaviour, with one of them bemoaning the loss of 'a once in a life-time opportunity'. Opportunity? What did he think it was? The Apprentice for chavs?

Watching cocky yobs being brought down a peg or two is always good television, and I'm sure that if prisons were a bit less cushy, and focused a little more on teaching feckless about the real world, then the rewards would be great. would be great

would be great.

But a ground-breaking social experiment? Leave it out. The lads had already decided to turn their backs on crime, and their experience was so cushy that most of them were sad to leave.

This wasn't a borstal. It was just a long school field trip.

HERE is a revolutionary sug-gestion on how to tackle the 'crisis in the NHS'. For all the political posturing over the past few weeks, the real reason why so many people are having to wait at A&E is not because the system is in need of radical re-organisation, or even because it is short of money. It is simply because too many people are

going there. going there.

The number of patients going through the doors of accident and emergency wards has increased relentlessly over the past few years, with stories about people with toothache, constipation and bad toenalls becoming the stiff of legends.

becoming the stuff of legends.

But when politicians keep blathering on about 'world class' health care, is it any wonder that some of the more intellectually challenged members of society treat A&E like a sort of spa resort





One of Craig Evans paintings that are on display



A scene on show at the art exhibition

## Artist brushes up on left hand skills

An artist learned to use his other arm after injury and is now showing off his work. **LAURA BLYTH** reports

WHEN aspiring artist Craig Evans fell from a ladder and bad-ly dislocated his right arm, he thought he would never draw

again.

But his love of painting persuaded him to pick up a brush in his left hand – and learn all over again how

to sketch and add colour to canvas. The 48-year-old from Brownhills has not looked back since and is about to launch his first ever art exhibition, with

pictures he painted using his left hand following the accident.

He said it was never an option to give up on his art after his horror fall.

"My painting was put on hold after the accident but I decided it was not going to hold me back," he said.

#### **Elevate**

"If I'd have smashed up both my arms

I ro have smasned up both my arms
I probably would have put the brush in
my mouth and painted like that.
"It has amazed me what I've managed
to achieve. It shows if your brain is willing and you put your mind to it you can

do it.

"It was strange at first drawing with
my left hand but I've learned to adapt.
I can't elevate my right arm which is
something you need to do when drawier." ing."
Craig fell from a ladder three years ago

while she was away.

"I was on the ladder and I slipped somehow," he said.

somehow," he said.

"Gravity took me down and I went down like a pack of cards. I extended my arm out as you do and it smashed on the kitchen sink. It came straight out the



Craig Evans whose work is on show at Chasewater Innovation Centre

off.
"I waited three hours for a paramedic to come and I was given the full legal requirement of morphine but it didn't

touch the pain."

Craig was taken to Good Hope Hospital in Sutton Coldfield where he was treated but shortly afterwards he developed frozen shoulder, a condition which leads to stiffness in the arm. It was then that he started drawing and painting with his left

Craig's love of art started as a young

socket and was pretty much hanging boy. "My father was a decorator and used to take me out on jobs with him,'

"I remember he did a sketch once on a piece of paper. I felt something inside

me go 'wow.'

"For the rest of the day I tried to copy it. As time went on I would play around with paints and oils. I used to do cartoons as a child."

Craig was 14-years-old when he sold his first piece of artwork to his friend's mother for £10 and studied art for a year at Sutton Coldfield College.



Painting in his spare time took a back seat when he landed a job in the print trade, where he worked for 30 years. But three years ago he gave up his job and he and fiancée Christine, aged 48, became

During his spare time looking after youngsters Craig re-kindled his love of painting.

The exhibition at Chasewater Innovation Centre, runs from February 23 until March 20 and will feature around 30 of Mr Evans's acrylic paintings priced between £50 and £200.

#### **WEEK IN POLITICS**

ED Miliband's question and answer session in Staffordshire proved why we need the TV de-

bates.
The Labour leader drew a crowd of around 200 members of the public to quiz him on what he'd do if he became Prime Min-

It was a far cry from the 25,000 Sir Winston Churchill drew to Molineux in 1949 when he was leader of the opposition, although pretty impressive for a Monday lunchtime in January in an age when politicians of all

in an age when politicians of all parties are as popular as hedge-hogs in a balloon factory.

But I have to admit, I think I was too cynical last week when I raised the prospect of the event being filled by only Labour sup-

There were plenty of sceptics. Indeed one of the audience, from the Support Stafford Hospital campaign, walked out of the Aquarius Ballroom in Hednesford at the end vowing to

nestord at the end vowing to never vote Labour again. Throwing the topics open to the floor brought some interest-ing results, given that Mr Millb-and and the organisers had no prior warning or control over

prior warning or control over them.

There was not a single ques-tion on Europe. Not one query about immigration. Not a dicky bird asked about the deficit.

#### Comfortable

There were, however, questions about health, the future of Stafford Hospital in particular, support for children with special needs, the minimum wage and plenty of things that Mr Miliband was generally comfortable answering.

He was clear that there would

He was clear that there would be no false promises on Stafford Hospital. But other than an 'undertaking' to review the downgrade on 'medical' grounds rather than 'penny pinching', there was not enough to prevent the aforementioned member of the support campaign from vowing members would stand in council wards in May.

I wonder what David Cameron would say if he faced the same

would say if he faced the same questions. The parties are not showing their differences on the same issues but fighting on vastly different issues

rie same issues but ignuing or vastly different issues.

For UKIP it's all about immigration and Europe. For the Tories it's all about the economy and for Labour it's a game of 'whose recovery is this anyway' and suggesting that those at the top are still the ones benefitting at the expense of everyone else. At Prime Minister's Questions Mr Miliband and Mr Cameron will argue but on totally separate points. I really hope the TV debates go ahead, particularly the head-to-head between the two men vying to be Prime Minister. At least then they'd have to take the same questions and be judged accordingly. Until then judged accordingly. Until then we'll have to cope with each party trying to set the agenda with their own spin machine.

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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## Call for a change to voting system

The present system excludes.
The present system gives monopoly
control to the main parties that are basically all the same once in power and
are all signed up to an unfair First Past
the Post electoral system.

Intil we have true preparational are

Until we have true proportional rep-

voting, Mr Winnick should campaign to change the voting system instead, so more people feel there is something to vote for and that their voting choice gets a fair and proportionate say in the decision making process.

Mr Winnick's Labour party is com-

SO Walsall North MP David Winnick believes that voting should be compulsory and by implication, those who do not vote or explain in advance that they are not voting should be fined.

I want to see maximum participation in a real democratic system, including the participation of 16-to-18-year-olds, which the present system excludes.

The present system excludes.

The present system gives monopoly to the participation of the control of the

paid citizens to lose their council tax exemption, forcing them to face extra bills of over £20 per week on average. These are hardly the policies that will bring cash-strapped voters to the polling booth. If so many people cannot afford to make ends meet, I doubt they will be able to pay fines for not voting. Pete Smith

Councillor Blakenall Ward

#### Spending LETTERS TO THE EDITOR money for sake of it

HARD to spot speed cameras to be put up on a stretch of the M6. Why do we need more cameras on top of those already 'not in use'? Every day the overhead

cameras are supposed to be working – nothing. I am coming to the conclu-sion they are dummies, but for the money spent so far surely they must be real? These new hidden cameras which are going to duplicate what is already set up, are to be painted yellow so they can be clearly seen?

The current camera system is adequate if proposely.

The current camera system is adequate if properly used, but I have yet to see a vehicle 'flashed' for proceeding past a flashing red cross.

Who wants to spend even more money duplicating a system which could be perfect, without paying for more expensive equiment?

more expensive equipment?
They are spending for the sake of it. Let's use what we have properly. Use the cameras to control speed when it

is necessary.

E A B Hobbs
Sutton Coldfield

Walsall Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES
Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## Job centres should have another name

WE discovered 18 months ago that job centres are only there for those who want to claim benefits, not to help those who are looking to find work.

My eldest child left college with an excellent qualification and wanted to look for work. After applying in vain for jobs, he enquired at the Job Centre Plus to see if there were any extra courses he could attend to help him look for work, give him some interview and job application skills, or to enquire if any other jobs were available.

He was told that unless he was claiming Job Seekers Allowance they couldn't help and to look online on the Government's Universal Jobs Match website. It was only through his own perseverance he managed to obtain work experience and now, luckily, a job.

Another child, with a mild learning disability, is now in the same situation. We visited the Job Centre just to ask if they could point us in the right direction for some help and were 'strongly advised' (their words), to claim JSA.

To my mind, there is something seriously wrong with this country that their own Government departments are encouraging people to claim benefits in order to get a bit of help in getting into work. These places should be renamed benefits centres, not job centres.

benefits centres, not job centres.

J Jones, Willenhall

I WOULD urge local people to add their name to the e-petition being organised by The Sixth Form College Association. We need to end the unjust taxation of our cirth form colleges.

There is an unjust and outrageous anomaly at the heart of sixth form college funding. Unlike schools and academies, sixth form colleges do not have their VAT costs returned. They also have to pay 20 percent VAT on capital expenditure. This leaves an average sixth form college £355k less to spend on educating students. A VAT refund scheme for sixth form collegees would help ensure

scheme for sixth form col-leges would help ensure students receive a fairer in-vestment in their education. Dropping the learning tax would allowing sixth form colleges to maintain a high quality education. To sign the petition, see Drop the Learning Tax - www.Sixth-formcolleges.org Doug James Councillor

Councillor Walsall

## An unjust anomaly in funding

sixth form colleges.

There is an unjust and





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## Fans-tastic night sees Saddlers on their way

THE dream has come true for ecstatic Saddlers supporters as they continue to bask in the glory of heading to Wem**bley.**A sell-out crowd erupted in jubi-

lation after the team saw off Preston North End to book their side's

ton North End to book their side's place at the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final in March.
Thousands of fans can look forward to a party in the capital – but the joy can start now as preparations for the big game begins.
Stuart King, aged 37, a fragrance scientist, travelled all the way from Otley, Yorkshire, to watch the match. His family originally lived in Walsall and are Saddlers fans.
He said."All my relatives are from

He said:"All my relatives are from

Walsall.
"My grandad Derek is now 91 but he took us to the matches when we were

small and it has just stuck.

"Unfortunately, he's in hospital and missed this game, but we're looking forward to going to Wembley after this min."

#### **Electric**

Electric

Stuart Cox, headteacher of Whetstone Field Primary in Aldridge, was at the match with children Madeleine, aged 10, Harry, seven, and brother Andrew, 33.

The 38 year-old from Essington said: "The atmosphere was electric, it was nerve-wracking at the end," he said. "But we have waited so long to go to Wembley it was all worth it.

"Supporting Walsall has always been a bit of a rollercoaster, there has been a few highs and a lot of lows."

Chris Steele, 24, a fabricator, of Goldsmith Road, Harden, Walsall, said: "It's amazing. I never thought we would ever get to Wembley. It's incredible."

Jack Norrie, 28, a salesman, of School Avenue, Brownhills, said: "Our



Joseph Garratt, eight, with Dean Smith





Stuart, Andrew, Madeleine, Harry Cox generation has seen automatic promo-

tion, league final, now Wembley. We could not have asked for anymore."
Gary Steele. 55, a fabricator, of Goldsmith Road, Harden, Walsall,

said: "I'm celebrating because I've waited 55 years for this and it has been long, but worth the wait."

Glen Millis, 29, a businessman, of Daw End Lane, Rushall, said: "This



Joy for young Leo Smith, from Lichfield is the best I've seen Walsall play since promotion in 1999.

Mark Rainer, 36, an administrator, of Spring Road, Shelfield, was watching with his son Joshua, six, his dad

ing with his son Joshua, six, his dad Nigel and brother James. Mr Rainer said:"It's a brilliant re-sult. This is the day we have all been dreaming of for so long. I've been com-ing for 28 years."

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## Boys on the ball for a dramatic night



The Chase View boys line up for a photograph before the Preston game alongside the Walsall FC mascot Swifty

PUPILS from Chase View Primary School in Rugeley enjoyed an amaz-ing experience on Tuesday, when they played their part in a historic night for the Saddlers. They were invited to be ball boys for Walsall FC's crucial Johnstone's Paint Trophy match against Preston North

Walsall FC's crucial Johnstone's Paint Trophy match against Preston North End. With Walsall having won away two weeks before all they needed to do was avoid defeat to qualify for a fisrt ever Wembley visit. As a result the ground was packed with more than 10,000 fans.

Most of the Chase View boys had been to Bescot as ball boys before but never in front of a crowd or with an atmosphere like this before.

It was also an honour for the school to be asked to do the job for Walsall's most important game in decades with

Director of Community Adam Davy commenting that he had no hesitation in inviting the children as in previous visits their effort and behaviour had always been impeccable and they are always perfect ambassadors for the school and club.

A school spokesman said: "Before

school and club.

A school spokesman said: "Before the game the boys enjoyed an hour's football at the academy pitch before the main part of the evening begun.

#### Seats

"About 20 minutes before kick-off they went out onto the pitch and lined up to meet and welcome the teams onto the pitch. "They then took their pitch side seats, which were undoubtedly the best in the ground, to help the game run smoothly and hopefully do their

bit to help the Saddlers get to Wembley. The atmosphere around all four sides of the ground in the 90 minutes that followed was electric, with chances and mistakes for both teams but no goals.

"As the clock drew closer to time the Chase View boys left their places to assemble together pitch side because when the referee blew nearly all of the fans converged on the pitch and the ball boys didn't want to get in the way.

"This was a real night to remember with all of the 14 boys having a story to tell.

with all of the 14 boys having a story to tell.

"They were all buzzing at the end and are thrilled to have done their bit to help. A signed Walsall ball was awarded to Alfie Wass for showing a stand out effort in training and marking his sixth time as a ball boy."

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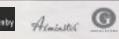
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#### Putting on a reel show as pub opens



From left, Malcolm Pearson, manager Tony Carty and Michael Harris at the opening of the pub

A NEW £1.95million pub named after one of Bloxwich's

A NEW £1.59million puo named atter one of Blowden a most famous residents has opened at a former cinema. The Bloxwich Showman, a JD Wetherspoon pub, replaces the old Electric Palace cinema in High Street. The name takes its inspiration from King of Showmen Pat Collins, who lived in Bloxwich and helped set up the famous fun fair in 1875.

He set up what became the Showman's Guild and was its

famous fun fair in 1875.

He set up what became the Showman's Guild and was its longest serving president.

Mr Collins served as Liberal MP for Walsall in the 1920s and was mayor in 1938. He died in 1943.

To mark the pub's opening, a Pat Collins truck was rolled outside before the ribbon was cut by staff.

The pub was initially expected to create 45 jobs, but it will instead employ 57.

The pub was initially expected to create 40 jobs, but it will instead employ 57.

The building, one of the area's landmarks, has been empty since 2011, when the Electric Palace youth club – named after the cinema that stood on the site – moved out. Manager Tony Carty said: "We are confident it will be a great addition to the Bloxwich community."

## Students' boost as TV channel to launch

STUDENTS will be able to get hands-on television experience when a new station is broadcast from Walsall at the end of the

Big Centre TV will use a media studio, presenta-tion suite, and 400-seat auditorium at Walsall Studio

tion suite, and 400-seat auditorium at Walsall School, based in the town's Goldmine Centre.

The station, which go on air on February 28, will also have access to broadcast cameras and a TriCaster production facility, which uses a green screen to insert virtual backgrounds.

It will cover the Black Country as well as Birmingham and Solihull.

Partner
Channel director Chris Perry said: "We are extremely fortunate to partner with Walsall Studio School, which has some of the best people, production and watthey squarter.

which has some of the best people, production and broadcast facilities."
Peter Stack, creative di-rector and head of sixth form at Walsall Studio School, said: "Our philoso-phy is to bring the place of work to the school. "This will allow us to cre-ate an education and train-

ate an education and training programme, that will eventually give students an incredible opportunity to

participate in a wide range of roles within Big Centre

School principal Dan Parkes said: "This is a huge opportunity for our students to be engaged with such an

to be engaged with such an exciting project."
Kevin Davis, chief executive of the Vine Trust Group, which run the Goldmine Centre, said the move was a real coup for the St Matthew's Quarter.
It is hoped up to 2.3million viewers will tune in to the station, which will broadcast seven days a week on Freeview Channel 8 and offer a mix of local and national news, current affairs and magazine shows, affairs and magazine shows. alongside comedy, music and light entertainment and children's programmes.

















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#### £200k pedestrianised area work deadline



Councillor Lee Jeavons, right, with Stuart Chapman, the chairman of Darlaston Town Centre Partnership

A £200,000 project to improve a pedestrian area in Darlas ton is expected to be completed by the end of this month.

ton is expected to be completed by the end of this month. Transport chiefs in Walsall began the improvement works to King Street in Darlaston Town Centre before Christmas. The project to resurface the pedestrian stretch includes replacing existing and damaged blocks and slab paving with a new tarmac carriageway on the west side of King Street and a tarmac footway on the east side. Grey drainage channels are being added and the centre section between the tarmac areas will be block paved, with a final layer of tarmac added by mechanical means to provide a smooth surface.

Councillor Lee Jeavons, portfolio holder for transport said: "The resurfacing works in King Street have been in the pipeline for some time now and will really enhance the area when the scheme is completed.

"We appreciate the frustrations of people as work has continued and we'd like to thank them for their patience."
Stuart Chapman, chair of Darlaston Town Centre part-

Stuart Chapman, chair of Darlaston Town Centre partnership added: "We've waited four years for the scheme to get started but when it's finally finished it will be worth the wait.

## **Group will** look at the issues faced by tenants

to look at the issues affecting disabled tenants who need major adaptations to homes.

The move follows discussions Councillor Marco Longhi, chairman of the health and social care scru-

The move follows discussions Councillor Marco Longhi, chairman of the health and social care scrutiny panel, has been having around current arrangements for disabled facility grants.

Councillor Longhi has been concerned about cases where people with disabilities have been assessed as needing a major adaptation to their home but have been told that Walsall Housing Group (WHG) could not carry out the conversion as their property would be "under-occupied."

In a meeting with WHG corporate director of operations Rob Gilham, Councillor Longhi and Councillor Longhi and Councillor Longhi and Councillor Longhi and that WHG struggled to relet properties with adaptations at a later stage and had to rip them out.

Councillor Longhi said:
"If we are effectively using someone's disability to put them in a house that suits the current policy on underoccupation that is wrong."

Mr Gilham added: "We

31 High Street

Aldridge, Walsall Birmingham WS9 8I X

## Discarded cigarette fire victim died on birthday

#### Team's marvellous murals



Bridie Green, Father Michael Amal, EmilyDace and Gagandeep Bhandal

COLOURFUL murals of three of Christianity's prophets have been painted on the wall of aWillenhall church. They have been created by Walsall College student Emily Dace, who is doing a fine art foundation course.

The 18-year-old, from Bentley, was helped by two design students from St. Thomas More Catholic High School - Bridie Green and Gagandeep Bhandal, who produced the initial designs.

The pictures were painted on timber boards and then fitted into the bricked-up openings to the church's old loft to brighten up the space.

Emily has completed a wide range of community art projects including murals for the wards at Birming-ham Children's Hospital and the school assembly and dining hall on the theme of healthy eating and

illustration of inspirational say-ings during her work experience at school. She has also worked on dis-plays at Birmingham Library and wants to study portraiture at a top art college.

"I have to thank my design team of Bridie and Gagandeep who developed the initial designs; they were perfect to work from.

"The work has been compared to Michelangelo and though he had his own designers I wasn't hanging off the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel sus-pended by ropes and pulleys."

Gagandeep, 15, from Willenhall, who designed the picture of Elijah, said: "I wanted to make my design larger than life and to work in harmony with Bridie's. I had to look up Elijah on the Internet and see just what he was famous for and that's where I got the idea of the horses."

A FORMER army sergeant died on his birthday three months after a discarded cigarette sparked a fire at his home in the Black

a fire at his home in the Black
Country, an inquest heard.
John Griffiths suffered 27 per cent
burns in the blaze, which started
while he was in bed at his flat in Tannery Close, Walsall.
The 75-year-old, who served with the
Royal Corps of Signals for 18 years, was
bed-bound and had managed to contact
firefighters. A sprinkler system kicked in as
the mattress caught light but Mr Griffiths,
who suffered a stroke 10 years previously,
suffered burns across his body.
He was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham where he died months
after his condition deteriorated and he
contracted broncho-pneumonia. He died in
hospital on November 2 last year.
Mr Griffiths served in the military for
18 years before coming out to run the old
Fitters Arms pub in Hatherton Street, Walsall, for his family. After that the divorced
father-of-one worked as a security guard.

#### **Sprinkler**

The inquest at Smethwick Coroner's Court was told he had called the fire service Court was told he had called the fire service himself, and the mattress was partly alight when crews arrived. He said he had fallen asleep and had been smoking.

The cigarette burnt a hole into the air flow type mattress which fanned the flames.

The sprinkler system then came into force.
Mr Griffiths was a keen sports fan with
an interest in football and cricket. He was
bed-bound but carers went in to see him

four times a day. Senior Black Country coroner Zafar Sid-Senior Black Country coroner Zatar Sid-dique recorded a verdict of accidental death. He said: "The fire started accidentally when a discarded cigarette was dropped onto the bedding."

His sister Adele Rowlands, from Blox-

His sister Adele Rowlands, from Bloxwich, aged 67, said: "He was always my
big brother who I idolised. He loved his own
company, he lived on his own.

"He loved music, he had lots of old records and books. He was an avid reader, it
was like a library in his flat. He would go
through a book a night he was that quick."

She added that hospital staff had been
'brilliant' during their care of him.

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BUILDING contractor Shaylor Group, based in Aldridge, has signed con-tracts to build Cedars Hall, a new music and perfor-mance facility at Wells Ca-thedral School in Somerset. The multi-million pound

building will provide flexible, high quality recital space and sectional practice rooms for use by the school and wider community.

The stylish building, designed the school is and the stylish building, designed the school is and the stylish school is and the stylish school is a school is a school in the stylish school is a school in the stylish school in the stylish school is a school in the stylish school in the stylish school is a school in the stylish school in the stylish school in the stylish school is a school in the stylish school in th

The stylish building, designed by architect Eric Parry, will be placed in the centre of the school and, in addition to music, will be used for lectures, meetings and drama productions.

and drama productions.

Wells Cathedral School
is a co-educational independent school and one of
only four specialist music
schools in England. Shaylor
Group chief Stephen Shaylor said: "Our team are
very excited to begin work
on this intricate project."

#### **Avid readers** raise £2,000

YOUNG bookworms added a new chapter to their school's fundraising activities by raising more than £2,000 in a readathon.

Students in Year 7 and 8 Students in Year ' and s at Aldridge School read as many books as they could to raise £2,116 for CLIC Sargent and The Roald Dahl Foundation. Both causes help children with spinors illusted to the state of the stat serious illness.

Since the 2007 launch of the annual readathon, pupils have raised £16,993 for the charities.

music site Council chief: We listened to public on budget plans

> had to say and this has helped us make informed decisions.' These are the words of Walsall Council leader Sean Coughlan.

He spoke after announcing proposed changes to the budget. Bosses say the revised budget, which cuts almost £1.6 million from the £86m in savings the council needs to make over four years, will mean

fewer job losses.

Under the amendments proposed, plans to cut fundproposed, plans to cut fund-ing to community associa-tions have been axed. While plans to charge £28 for gar-den waste collections have been dropped after 70 per cent of people who took part in the proper that is a side that the pro-ter of people who took part in the consultation said they

in the consultation said they would not pay. The amount of money being clawed back from grass cutting, parks and grounds maintenance in the next financial year has been reduced from £362,708 to £135,383. The council has also done a U-turn on plans to shut the Sneyd Water Activities Centre and the Aldridge Airport Outdoor Activities Centre. Both will remain open.

Activities Centre. Both will remain open.
At Walsall New Art Gallery, no jobs will be lost, but vacant posts will not be filled saving the council £5,367. It will also not have its opening hours slashed over the winter. Fallings Heath Res-

**Report by Laura Blyth** 

pite Centre, Darlaston, will no longer close and proposed cuts of £477,732 to the street cleaning service will now be £226,747.

The council is still plough-The council is still ploughing ahead with plans to close eight libraries despite thousands of users signing petitions against the move. The closure date of five libraries – Pheasey, Beechdale, Walsall Wood, Walsall South and Streetly – has been deferred by three months. They will now close on July 1. Three others, in Rushall, New Invention and Blakenall, after that.

Councillor Coughlan said the amendments to the budget meant fewer job cuts, but he was unable to put a figure on the amount. Originally the council said 487 jobs would be lost under the proposed budget cuts.



Kay and Tom Bains celebrating 25 year in business at the refurbished One Stop shop

#### One Stop has lasted 25 years

FAMILY-RUN newsa a rAMILY-RUN newsa-gents is celebrating its 25th anniversary and the com-pletion of a building revamp that has cost tens of thou-sands of pounds. The newsands of pounds. The new-look convenience shop in Chester Road, Brownhills, previously traded as Londis but is now part of the One Stop Stores franchise chain.

Stop Stores franchise chain.
It was set up in 1990 by
proprietors Kay and Tom
Bains, who have seen it grow
from humble beginnings as
shop with wooden shelves
stacked with essentials into
a thriving business. Now the
couple, both aged 57, run it
with the help of their son
Rob, and his wife Meenu.
There were plenty of

Rob, and his wife Meenu.
There were plenty of
balloons and smiles at the
official opening attended
by Aldridge North and Walsall Wood councillor Keith
Sears and the new Tory
parliamentary candidate for
Aldridge-Brownhills Wendy
Morton.

## top award

A 15-YEAR-OLD has become the first girl in her sea scout unit to win a coveted award.

eted award.
Jennifer Henery, of
Aldridge, scooped the Chief
Scout's Platinum Award –
the highest possible award
for a scout under 16. She
has already won the Duke
of Edinburgh's Bronze
Award

Award.
"I made history by being the first girl to gain the Chief Scout's Gold Award," said Jennifer. "I then went said Jennier. I then went on to do it again with the Platinum Award as an explorer in the Indomitable Explorer Unit. As far as I am concerned, anything a boy can do a girl can do better."

better."

Jennifer is a member of Indomitable Explorer Sea Scouts which regularly trains at Powell's Pool in Sutton Park with other units. Indomitable Explorer Unit are one of the few sea scout groups in the country recognised by the Royal Navy for the quality of their training and organisation.

#### **Road closure** due for works

A THREE-WEEK road closure will be in place during gas mains work in Aldridge next month.

It is due to be carried out along Knights Hill, at the junction of Barr Common Road, from February 16. It is being undertaken for National Grid Gas and the road will remain closed.

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Head chef Saba Choudhury, from Pleck, seen at the Five Spices Tandoori Restaurant, with his award

A TANDOORI restaurant is celebrating after its head chef was crowned 'peoples' favourite chef' in the West Midlands.

was crowned 'peoples' favourite chef' in the West Midlands.
Saba Chowdhury, aged 22, from Pleck, has led the
kitchen at the Five Spice Bangladeshi and Tandoori restaurant in Belbroughton, near Stourbridge, since it opened
two years ago. And now his culinary skills have been recognised at the Master Chef Promotions Awards. Having been
ominiated by customers he made it through to a live cookoff at Birmingham South and City College on January 7.
Competing chefs were challenged to cook their signature

Competing chefs were challenged to cook their signature dish from fresh ingredients and within an hour.

Saba spent weeks developing his own dish – a duck curry with orange.

"I had tried the dish every different way with fish and other ingredients," he said. "But it was the duck which came out well and what the customers were preferring."

The dish was developed as part of a new menu for the restaurant. Despite coming up against chefs much older than himself, Saba was not lacking in confidence and was named the region's winner at a special awards ceremony in Birmingham. He added: "I was around 80 per cent sure

## **Ale is well** to cheer on **Saddlers for** the big day

sall's historic trip to Wembley is poised to be brought out through a fans trust.

The commemorative bottled beer will celebrate the The commemorative bottled beer will celebrate the club reaching the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final. The Walsall Football Supporter's Trust previously produced ales to mark the club's 125th anniversary and ex-goalie Jimmy Walker's record-breaking number of appearances.

They are looking at using the celebration of Anthony Forde's goal in the first leg of the semi final against Preston North End on the label. The trust is now in He added they believed

label. The trust is now in discussions with brewers with the intention of getting an ale on the market within

weeks.

It is expected around 250 bottles will be produced.

With the huge interest in the occasion and the success of the club in making the final it is anticipated there will be a huge demand.

Secretary of the trust, Steve Davies, said: "We are hoping to do a beer to commemorate the first Wembley appearance.

appearance.
"The other two have sold out and I don't see any reason this won't. We want to

release it as soon as we can get it done."

He added they believed the image of winger Forde, after his crucial strike against Preston, would be ideal for the label.

The most recent ale was released in 2013 to mark the 125th anniversary of the Saddlers.

the 125th anniversary of the Saddlers.

The beers were priced at £3.50 and 250 were produced, two for each year of the club's existence.

It was a pale ale with a five per cent alcohol content.

It followed the success of the Super Jim 530 bottled beer to mark Jimmy Walk-er's milestone 530th game for the Saddlers.



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## Amy's all smiles as she marks 104th birthday



Amy Adlam celebrates her 104th birthday at Manor House with, from left, Mary Smedley and Hayley Jeenes

SHE was born in the year King George V was crowned and when the first non-stop flight between London and Paris took place.

Now former leather worker Amy Adlam, from Walsall, has celebrated her 104th birthday. Mrs Adlam worked in the town's fa-

mous trade, making the likes of purses since her teens, until she retired at the age of 60.

She lived in her flat in Bloxwich until she turned 100, only moving into

before he passed away more than 40 years ago due to heart problems.

She remarried, to Jack Adlam, until he also died around 30 years ago, also

due to heart issues.

a residential home after struggling to manage following a broken hip.

Twice widowed Mrs Adlam is still capable of communicating and enjoyed a party with family, staff and other residents at Manor House home in Willenhall. She was given a special birthday cake to mark the occasion.

She was first married to Alf Martin and lived in Walstead Road, Delves, before he passed away more than 40 residential nome for almost four years.
Her niece Mary Smedley said she remained a well-liked woman.
She said: "She broke her hip when she was 99 in the October and she had to go into hospital. She came out of hospital on her 100th birthday. She came home but couldn't manage on her own.

came home but couldn't manage on her own.

"The staff love her, they think there is nobody like her.

"She has deteriorated a lot but she is fine. You can have a conversation but Mrs Adlam most recently lived in there is times she can forget.

## entertainment

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#### Bekki branches out with first in Tree-logy



eam come true – Norton Canes author Bekki Pate has just had her first book The Willow Tree published

AN author from a village near Walsall could be Britain's next best-selling name thanks to an online publishing cam-

paign.

Bekki Pate bagged a publishing deal after successfully reaching a pre-order target.

The 26-year-old works full-time in clinical trials for the NHS and has always dreamed of seeing her novel in print on the bookshop shelves.

She had to submit the first three chapters of her novel to the publishers and after an initial nod of approval, her book was added to their website and she had three months to hit 250 pre orders.

Miss Pate said: "Writing is something I do as a hobby and something I have always wanted to do."

She first put per to paper around seven years ago, for her

She first put pen to paper around seven years ago, for her horror-based book The Willow Tree and has since penned

The Willow Tree is the first in a trilogy and was printed

on January 5.

Her book is available on Amazon and Kindle for £8.99 and the author is currently working on getting her book into high street shops.

## U-turn on cash cuts for roads' markings

across Walsall has been axed following fears it could lead to more accidents.

Walsall Council announced at the end of last year

Walsall Council announced at the end of last year that it was going to reduce investment by around £35,000 as part of budget cuts. The money is used for refreshing worn-out road markings, including white lines and give way markings.

In a report to the council at the time it stated that less maintenance to roads would mean motorists would be placed at greater risk of injury. But under amendments made to the budget, the service will no longer

ments made to the budget, the service will no longer lose out on funding. The council made numerous changes to the proposed budget following extensive consultation with the public. Councillor Keith Chambers, lead cabinet member for the budget consultation, said: "This has been the council's biggest budget consultation

"This has been the council's biggest budget consultation ever undertaken. "Over 7,000 responses have been received to the 54 draft policy proposals. Added to that, earlier in the process we listened to over 4,600 people in August and September to find out what

was important to them and what services would they protect, reduce or cease.

"Listening to the people of Walsall throughout this consultation has helped us shape our decisions. Feedback from service users, businesses, children and young people, other stakeholders and staff has been used to fine tune our draft proposals and adjustments

used to fine tune our draft proposals and adjustments have been made."

Other changes made to the budget on Tuesday in-cluded scrapping plans to introduce controversial charges for garden waste collections and not cutting the opening hours of Walsall New Art Gallery.



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#### Stars line-up for classic whodunnit

TV favourites Paul Nicholas and Dalziel and Pascoe star Colin Buchanan feature in a production of Agatha Christie's And Then There Were None at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre this week.

The play opened on

Theatre this week.

The play opened on Monday and runs until Saturday in a production that celebrates the 10th anniversary of the Agatha Christie Theatre Company. The whodunnit is set on an isolated island where the past catches up with the guests.

It also stars Susan Pen-haligon from Bouquet of Barbed Wire and A Fine Romance, Stafford-born ex-Blue Peter presenter Mark Curry, Emmerdale's Ver-ity Rushworth and Frazer Hines, plus Ben Nealon from Soldier Soldier.

#### Comedy favourites are on the stage

MAUREEN Lipman, fondly remembered as the BT grannie, will join Gimme Gimme Gimme actor James Dreyfus in Lindsay

James Dreyfus in Lindsay Posner's new production of 1940s American comedy Harvey at Birmingham Rep, before heading to the West End. The production is on in Birmingham until February 21.

The Knights who say Ni are back in Brum with Spamalot, the musical based on Monty Python and the Holy Grail, at the New Alexandra Theatre until Saturday. Squeaky-voiced Joe Pasquale is King Arthur and ex-EastEnder Todd Carty his long-suffering servant Patsy.

## Dance fantasy is promising to be a cut above the rest

#### It's Heart and Soul from Carol

A SHROPSHIRE raised singer known for some of the biggest power ballads of the 1980s, Carol Decker, brings T'Pau to Bilston venue The Robin 2 on Valentine's Day—apt, as one of their hits was Valentine. China In Your Hands, which topped the singles chart in the UK and American in 1987, was the band's biggest hit after they hit the big time with Heart and Soul from their debut Bridge of Spies album.

Next Saturday's gig has been rescheduled from last October. Tickets cost \$17.50 in advance or £19.50 on the door.

on the door.

on the door.

Other key gigs — Ricky Wilson will rule the roost when Kaiser Chiefs rock a full Wolverhampton Civic Hall tomorrow (Friday); Hayseed Dixie put a hill-billy twist on classic rock at a sold out Wulfrun Hall on Saturday, the same time Nick Dagger and The Counterfeit Stones spend the night at the Robin 2.



80s ballad queen Carol Decker has a Valentine date with T'Pau at Bilston's Robin 2 venue

ward Scissorhands, Matthew Bourne's ballet version of the cult fantasy movie created by Tim Burton, is being staged at Birmingham

Hippodrome from Tuesday to Saturday.
Dominic North, who was award nominated for his performance in the role in 2009, will be sharing the title role with rising star Liam Mower. One of the original trio of

boys who played Billy Elliot on stage, Mower last year returned to the West End as 'Older Billy' for the filmed gala version of the show. The Russian State Bal-

The Russian State Bal-let of Siberia perform their version of The Nutcracker (a little late for Christmas, or very early) at Wolver-hampton Grand Theatre on Sunday at 4pm and present an evening performance of Swan lake on Monday.

#### **Valentine**

Valentine

It will be dance with a Strictly popular appeal when Brendan Cole presents A Night To Remember at the Grand on Thursday, February 12.
Fellow Strictly Come Dancing veterans Anton du Beke and Erin Boag present That's Entertainment at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Saturday, February 14. A likely Valentine treat for many, the new production will feature Hollywood classics sung by Strictly vo classics sung by Strictly vo-calist Lance Ellington and danced by the star duo, plus world class guest dancers.



Edward Scissorhands is at Birmingham Hippodrome

The ballroom glamour will feature the 25-piece London Concert Orchestra on stage.

Former Strictly favourites Former Strictly lavourites Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace also celebrate the golden age of Hollywood in Dance Til Dawn at Bir-mingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to

Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

Then Birmingham Royal Ballet launches its season at Birmingham Hippodrome with Moving Stateside, fea-turing three American bal lets, from February 18 and Coppélia from February 24.

#### Medieval music on Night Watch

IF you fancy something seriously traditional, different and definitely medieval then The Night Watch are a real treat.

The duo of Ian Pittaway and Andy Casserley play tunes which are hundreds of years old on impressive reproduction instruments the like of which would have been played in the 13th century.

have been played in the 13th century.
They will be playing renaissance music and singing in ways which will transport you back in history at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Church Hill, Mill Street, Sutton Coldfield, B72 1TF this Saturday (February 7) at 7.30pm.
Tickets can be bought through www.htsc.org.uk/friends-of-holy-trinity/concerts-and-events/the-night-

certs-and-events/the-night

#### Hares to Leveret's new album tour

THREE of English folk's top musicians, Andy Cut-ting, Sam Sweeney and Rob Harbron, will be performing together as Leveret at the MAC Bir-mingham on February 12

The gig is the launch tour for their debut album New Anything. Tickets New Anything. Tickets are £15 or £13 with conces

sions.
Cutting has just finished a new album with Martin Simpson and Nancy Kerr.

Simpson and Nancy Kerr.
On the same night at
8.30pm, duo Nik Morris
and Kris Collins, Elmore
Row, will be at Brewood
Acoustic Club, Brewood
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## The time is right to give Peace a chance



Quartet Peace feature Now is the

WORCESTERSHIRE band Peace have broadened and deepened their jangly guitar rock

sound on their second album.
Whereas 2013's debut In Love burned brightly with exuberance of Droitwich/Worcester lads realising that they'd created a major buzz on the music scene, Happy People (Columbia) sees them living up

scene, Happy People Colu
to that promise.
The title track) is likely
to become a fans' favourite
especially with Douglas Castle's cascading guitar licks,
akin to The Edge. Money
has a serious swagger and
on I'm A Girl, over fuzzy
fretwork fireworks, the
singer laments the baser instincts of men. stincts of men.

stincts of men.
Even Harry's rap works
on the epic closer World
Pleasure, a loose funky
rocker that reealls Primal
Scream and the best of Madchester. Now is definitely
time to give Peace a chance.

#### Catchy

Meghan Trainor comes Meghan Trainor comes across as an American equivalent to the likes of Eliza Doolittle and Pixie Lott with her perky pop album Title (Epic). She has already proved that she's no one hit wonder, following the ultra-catchy All About The Bass with the rap-lite hit Lips Are Movin. Mr Almost with its Spice Girls feel could well become hit number three.

See the 24-year-old from Nantucket in concert at Bir-

See the 24-year-old from Nantucket in concert at Birmingham Institute in Digbeth on April 11.
Canadian band The High Dials are moody and sometimes magnificent on In The A.M. Wilds (Factor) with tracks that grow out of atmospheric soundscapes.
The album is worth checking out if you like Interpol, Doves and The Editors. There is even a hint of Fleetwood Mac on Yestergraves and John Foxx on Club Stairs.
If you like The Pierces and such 60s West Coast sounds as Jefferson Airplane and Buffalo Springfield, check

Buffalo Springfield, check out the sun-kissed harmonious pop of Merseyside outfit **The Sundowners,** fronted by Niahm Rowe and Fiona

#### **Album Reviews**

By Leon Burakowsl

Skelly, with Fiona's brother Alfie on lead guitar.

Tracks like Into The Light and Medicine will ap-peal to fans of such modern neo-psychedelic outfits as Temples, Quilt and Tame Impala but without quite the same verve.

The Wirral quintet are

The Wirral quintet are produced on their self-titled debut from Skeleton Key Records by Fiona and Alfie Skelly's brothers in The Coral. The Sundowners will be playing Birmingham city centre's Sunflower Lounge on February 15.

American troubadour Justin Townes Earle, the acoustic guitar strumming son of roots rocker Steve Earle, is cut from the fabric of classic US folk/country/rock, Fans of Bob Dylan, Van Morrison and Tom Petty will find plenty to enjoy in his melancholy sound, enhanced by the weepy pedal steel guitar of Paul Niehaus on Absent Fathers (Loose Music). thers (Loose Music).

El/Cherry Red have come up with a couple of CDs of easy listening/lounge sounds from the 1950s and 60s that would be perfect audio back-drops for any vintage cock-tail party.

Mexican bandleader Mexican bandleader Esquivel would simultaneously record sections of his orchestra in studios a block apart to enhance the newfangled stereo sound, as heard on two-for-one set Latin-esque/Exploring New Sounds in Stereo.

Film composer Henry Mancini is celebrated on 28-track compilation Playboy Themes featuring the gor-geous Lujon but not enough from Breakfast at Tiffany's.





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Paddy McGuinness

#### Take Me Out (ITV, 8.05pm)

It seems a long time ago indeed when Paddy McGuinness walked in the shadow of comic sidekick and best friend Peter Kay. Since those days, he's carved a nice little career for himself, married a model and become a father to twins. He's also recently announced he'll be touring again in September, but if you can't wait that long to cash in some of that unique McGuinness humour, he's back on the box tonight with this hilarious dating show. Tonight, he is serving up a treat for those ladies with lights; they will meet lifeguard Liam, barista Jonathon, hairdresser Nick and bagpiper Glenn. Surely love will blossom for some of them? If not, we'll have fun watching it try...

#### BBC<sub>1</sub>

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts. 12.00 BBC News; Weather. 12.10 Football Focus. 12.50 Saturday Sportsday. 1.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.00 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Italy v Ireland (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. France v Scotland (Kick-off 5.00pm).

6.55 BBC News; Regional News;

- 7.15 The Voice UK. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present the Marvin Humes present the spinning-chair singing contest, in which Tom Jones, William, Ricky Wilson and Rita Ora seek out the nation's best vocal talent. As the coaches sit with their backs to the singers, the fun for the viewers is guessing who is going to press their button first, as they silently with a characteristic states of the seek o guessing who is going to press
  their button first, as they silently
  quiz each other or goad each other
  on. As they become more keen to
  complete their teams, will they be
  less picky in their choices?
  Tonight's hopefuls include
  19-year-old Essex rapper Brooklyn
  and a familiar face to any fan of
  1990s pop – Brother Beyond
  singer Nathan Moore.

  8.35 The National Lottery: Win Your
  Wish List. Shane Richie hosts the
  game show in which two
  contestants pick a selection of
  dream prizes to make up their
  personal wish lists, all of which
  have a connection to their shared
  history together. They then face
  categories of questions in an
  attempt to win their chosen items.

  9.25 Casualty. It's inspection day so
  Connie gives the staff a pep talk—
  unaware of the problems in store.
  Two soldiers are injured in an
  explosion during a training
- explosion during a training exercise, but Rita can't understand exercise, but Hita can't understand why one of them is lying about the accident. A computer hacker tries to spread a little happiness, although it comes at a price that lands him in the ED – and as the doctors treat the patients liness, Robyn inadvertently causes a near-disaster by spreatrently causes an ear-disaster by spreatrently causes. The patients are considered to the patients of the patients are considered to the patients of the patients are considered to the patients of the patien and Max rekindle their passion

10.15 BBC News: Weather

10.30 Match of the Day. 12.00 The Football League Show. 1.20 Film: Highlander: Endgame. (2000) 2.50 Weather for the Week Ahead. 2.55 BBC

#### BBC<sub>2</sub>

6.20 Film: War and Peace. (1956) 9.40 Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam. (R) 10.10 British Isles: A Natural History (R) 11.00 Six Nations Rewind. 12.00 James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) 12.45 Food & Drink. (R) 1.15 Jack Lemmon: Talking Pictures 2.00 Film: Cowboy. (1958) Western, starring. Jack Lemmon. 3.30 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.30 Final Score. 5.15 Horrible Histories: Magna Carta Special. 5.45 The Great British Sewing Bee. (R) 6.45 Floud Histports Thomas Plant and

- Carta Special. 5.45 Ihe Great British Sewing Bee. (R)

  6.45 Flog It! Experts Thomas Plant and Michael Baggott are in Edinburgh, where items brought in by locals include a small lover trinket box and an example of Monart.

  7.35 Britain 'S Iudor Treasure: A Night at Hampton Court. With the royal palace celebrating its 500th anniversary this year, Lucy Worsley and David Starkey present a recreation of the christening service of Henry VIII's son and heir Edward on October 15, 1537. The two historians reveal how Henry's household 15, 1537. The two historians reveal how Henry's household came together for an occasion that used every part of Hampton Court Palace, from the royal apartments and the kitchens to the Chapel Royal, producing a pageant that was deeply political as well as being a carefully stage-managed performance. (R)

- performance. (R)

  8.35 Dad's Army. Mainwaring's platoon
  tries to raise money for the local
  Spittire fund by having a bash at
  morris dancing. Classic comedy
  first broadcast in 1974, starring
  Arthur Lowe. (R)

  9.05 QI XL. Extended edition. Ross
  Noble, Kathy Lette, Sue Perkins
  and Alan Davies attempt to answer
  host Stephen Fry's range of
  fiendish questions on the topic of
  ladies and gents.

  9.50 Film: Broken. (2012) Premiere.
  An 11-year-old girls innocent
  outlook on life is shattered when
  she sees her neighbour brutally
  tatack a man he suspects of raping
  his daughter. The incident leaves
  her unable to rust any of the nis daughter. The incident leaves her unable to trust any of the people and places she had previously considered safe, but finds solace in a friendship with the victim of the assault. Drama starring Eloise Laurence.

11.15 Film: Seven Years in Tibet. (1997) Fact-based drama, st Brad Pitt and David Thewlis. starring 1.25 Film: Glory Road. (2006) 3.15 This

Bottom Knocker Street. 6.10
Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.20 Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R)
6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R)
6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R)
7.10 Sooty. (R) 7.25 Signed Stories:
Share a Story. (R) 7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled!: Scrambled!: Adventure Time. 8.30 Scrambled!: Adventure Time. 8.30 Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash. 9.25 The
Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.25 The
Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.50 The
Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 10.50 The
Jeremy Kyle Sh

- last place in next week's final of the talent show.
- 7.30 Planet's Got Talent. Featuring a 7.30 Planets our ratem. Featuring a man who jumps into paddling pools from incredible heights, a parrot that speaks fluent English, and one of the most dangerous acts ever seen on the show.

  8.05 Take Me Out L. Lifeguard Liam from Newcastle, barista Jonathon from
- Newcastle, barista Jonatron from Newport, hairdresser Nick from Pontefract and bagpiper Glenn from Glasgow all vie for the attentions of 30 single women, intent on capturing their interest and securing a date. However, first they must get the female participants to keep their lights on a seign of anyonal. Heef baddy. participants to keep them ingres on as a sign of approval. Host Paddy McGuinness monitors their progress and reviews the dating action from last week's couples on the Isle of Fernandos.
- the Isle of Fernandos.

  9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by Stephen Fry, for his first TV interview since his wedding, former England cricket captain Andrew Flintoff and comedy actor Kevin Hart.

  10.20 ITV News; Weather.

  10.35 Film: Hard Target. (1993) An out-of-work merchant sailor

of-work merchant sailor investigates sadistic hunters who stalk human prey in New Orleans. John Woo's action thriller, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme.

12.20 Jackpot247. 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.40 ITV

#### **CHANNEL 4**

6.05 Trans World Sport. 7.00 Cycling: Revolution Series. 7.55 The Morning Line. 9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.30 Frasier. (R) 11.00 Frasier. (R) 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.30 Child Genius. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. 4.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 5.30 The Simpsons. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. Bart ones to work

Bang inebry. (x) 3.30 The Simpsons. (x) 6.00 The Simpsons. Bart goes to work as a comedian in a burlesque theatre and proves a hit with its clientele – until Marge turns up with an angry mob in tow and tries to demolish the place. (R) 6.30 Channel 4 News.

- Channel 4 News.

  Our Guy in India. Guy Martin takes a 1,000-mile journey across India to compete in a race called Rider Mania, the world's largest gathering of Royal Enfield motorbikes. In the first of two programmes, the daredevil rides with a 50-strong biker gang, visits Asia's biggest truck yard and finds himself completely out of his comfort zone. (R)
- The World's Weirdest Weather. In America, the waters of Lake Erie turn pea green, while a man in New Zealand finds eels swimming in his street after a sudden and violent downpour. A photographer captures rare images of a moustache cloud, New York City grinds to a halt as onlookers grinds to a nair as onlookers witness the beautiful sunset known as "Manhattanhenge", and in Hawaii, volcanic lava creates tornados of steam on the ocean surface. A terrifying mudslide roars through a sleepy Austrian village, while wind and rain carve ancient rocks into giant mushroom-like shapes in Egypt.
- mushroom-like shapes in Egypt. Film. American Reunion. (2012) Premiere. Jim Levenstein and his old friends return to their home town for a high-school reunion. Struck by how much their lives have changed, they set out to relive the sexual misadventures of their adolescence, but only end up making bigger fools of themselves than they did as teenagers. Comedy sequel, starring Jason Biggs and Alyson Hannigan.

11.15 Film: Panic Room. (2002) Thriller, with Jodie Foster. 1.20 Film: Earthquake. (1974) 3.25 Hollyoaks. (R) 5.25 A Place in the Sun:

#### **CHANNEL 5**

6.00 Milkshakel 10.00 SpongeBob SquarePants, 10.35 Access, 10.40 Ice Road Truckers, (R) 11.40 Ice Road Truckers, (R) 11.40 Ice Road Truckers, (R) 12.35 Ice Road Truckers, (R) 12.55 Film: U-571, (2000) Second World War adventure, starring Matthew McConaughey 4.45 Film: Columbo: Murder in Malibu, (1990) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk, 23.55 Film: McConaughey 4.45 Film: Columbo: Murder in Malibu, (1990) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk, 23.55 Film: McConaughey 4.45 Film: Columbo: Murder in Malibu, (1990) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk, 23.55 Film: McConaughey 4.35 Film: Columbo: McConaughey 4.35 Film: McCo

- starring Peter Falk.
  6.35 5 News Weekend.
  6.40 NCIS. The team is called to a high school on a Marine base, where a pupil has taken his classmates hostage and is threatening to detonate a bomb strapped to his chest. Mark Harmon stars. (R)
- 7.25 NCIS. Gibbs is called to a frozen lake, where two children have discovered the body of a missing marine. The team searches the water for clues and finds three water for clues and finds firee more bullet-ridden corpses, all of which have tattoos linking them to a notorious street gang. The case then becomes a race against time to discover what connects the murders before the serviceman's comrades seek revenge. (R)
- murders betrote the serviceman's comrades seek revenge. (R)

  8.20 NCIS. Gibbs is assigned to examine the apparent suicide of a Pentagon cryptographer suspected of spying. The case is thrown into disarray by the discovery of evidence indicating another person was present at the time of death meaning the real mole may still be on the loose and has already killed at least once. Crime drama, with Mark Harmon and David McCallum. (R)

  9.20 NCIS. A suspect dies while being restained by Ziva. who finds herself accused of using undue force and becomes the subject of an internal investigation. Drama, starring Gote de Pablo. (R)

  10.15 CSI: Crime Scene investigation.
- 10.15 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. The team works with the CDC to contain a deadly outbreak in Las Vegas when Sara and Greg are quarantined after responding to a crime scene contaminated with a lethal virus.

11.10 Law & Order. A pregnant security 11.10 Law & Order. A pregnant security
guard is injured when a package
explodes at a scientific research
lab, prompting Green and Lupo to
look at a chemist's latest
experiments.

12.10 SuperCasino. 3.10 10,000 BC. (R)
4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big.
(R) 5.15 Angles of Jarm. (R) 5.40 Roary
the Racing Car. (R)

#### **DIGITAL**

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth 8.00 Top Gear 9.00 Film: Butterfly on a Wheel (2007) 10.30 Russell Howard's Good News 11.00 Family Guy 2.00 Crims 2.30 South Side Story 3.00 Russell Howard's Good News 3.30 Sweat the Small Stuff 4.00 Close

**BBC** Four

7.00 Yellowstone: Unnatural Histories 8.00 Bright Lights, Brilliant Minds: A Tale of Three Cities **9.00** Spiral **10.50** Charlie Brooker's Weekly Wipe 11.20 Queen: Days of Our Lives 1.20 Top of the Pops: 1980 2.00 Bright Lights, Brilliant Minds: A Tale of Three Cities 3.00 Sounds of the 70s 3.30 Close

11.15 The Cube: Celebrity Special 12.15 Film: Honey (2003) 2.10 Film: Small Soldiers (1998) 4.20 You've Been Framed: Kids Special 5.20 Film: Rumor Has It (2005) Kids Special 5.20 Him: Humor Has it (20u5) 7.25 Film: Stormbreaker (2006) 9.20 Take Me Out – The Gossip 10.05 Reality Bites 10.50 The Keith Lemon Sketch Show 11.20 Film: Death Race (2008) 1.25 Fake Reaction 2.05 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.50 Teleshopping 5.50 ITV2 Nightercan

11.50 A Touch of Frost 2.00 Wycliffe 3.05 Film: Mutiny on the Buses (1972) 5.00 Agatha Christie's Marple 7.00 Doc Martin 8.00 Foyle's War 10.00 Lewis 12.05 A Touch of Frost 2.05 Judge Judy 2.30 Teleshopping 11.00 Hogan's Heroes 12.40 The Car Chasers

11.0U Hogans Heroes 12.4U Ine Car Chasers 2.30 Counting Cars 3.25 Pawn Stars 5.10 Storage Wars: Texas 7.10 Storage Wars 1.30 Film: Monty Python's The Meaning of Life (1983) 1.40 The Motorbike Show 2.30 Hogans Heroes 2.55 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping

11.00 Taking New York: Sneak Peek 11.35 2 Broke Giris 12.00 New Girl 1.00 Melissa & Joey 2.00 How Mir Net Your Mother 3.00 Troy 4.00 The Jump 5.00 The Jump: On the Piste 5.35 The 100.6 3.01 The Igit Barn Pierory 9.00 Film: Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991) 11.40 The Inbetweeners 12.50 How Ilbet Your Mother 1.50 The Cleveland Show 3.05 Don't Tirst the 8"" in Apadrener 23.3.50 Don't Trust the 8\*\*\*\* in Apartment 23 3.50
The New Normal 4.10 Desperate Housewive
4.55 My Fair Wedding

**USE YOUR LOFT!** 

Till 1.00 On the Fiddle (1961) 1.00 27 Dresses (2008) 3.25 The Wind Rises (2013) 6.10 Transformers (2007) 9.00 Hanna (2011) 11.10 Don't Be Afrail of the Dark (2010) 1.15 Snake in the Eagle's Shadow (1978) 3.25



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#### **CHOICE**



**Guy Martin** 

#### Our Guy in India (Channel 4, 9pm)

Grimsby has suddenly made it onto the media map. Strictly Come Dancing's Kevin and Joanne Clifton hail from there, and so does the star of this series, biker Guy Martin. Last week's edition saw him set off on a 1,000-mile trip across India on his Royal Enfield motorcycle, and he continues the journey here by calling in Mumbai. He visits a slum which changes his perception of what such a place is like before sampling the refreshing sensation of monsoon season. Guy makes the final leg of his journey on a traditional trawler en route to Goa, but ignores the resort's famous beaches and heads straight for his ultimate goal – Rider Mania, which has the largest gathering of Royal Enfields on

#### BBC<sub>1</sub>

6.00 Breakfast. 7.30 Match of the Day.
(R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00
The Big Questions. 11.00 Sunday
Politics. 12.15 MOTD2 Extra. With Mark
Chapman and the Match of the Day
team. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15
Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.15 Escape to the
Country. (R) 3.00 Eat Well for Less? (R)
4.00 Your Home in Their Hands. 5.00
Songs of Praise. 5.35 BBC News;
Regional News; Weather.
6.00 Animals in Love. Part Iyo of two

- Regional News; Weather.

  6.00 Anima's in Love. Part two of two. How animals attract a mate, from female capuchin monkeys firiting with the alpha male to the oranguan that chooses its partner in a very 21st-century was partner in a very 21st-century was considered in Leicestershire and Rutland, revealing how farmers and volunteers are trying to encourage them back onto the land and restore their habitat. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

  8.00 Call the Mildwife. Sister Winifired
- Call the Midwife. Sister Winifred makes it her mission to promote safe sex among the local prostitute population. Sister Monica Joan feels sidelined, while Trixie and Tom argue over their
- 9.00 The British Academy Film Awards. Stephen Fry hosts the Bafta ceremony live from the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, as stars of the silver screen gather to pat one another on the back in a celebration of the on the back in a celebration of the past 12 months' cinematic achievements, while the nominated ones keep their fingers crossed that they won't be going home empty-handed. Birdman, Boyhood, The Grand Budapest Boyhood, The Grand Budapest Hotel, The Imitation Game and The Theory of Everything compete for best film, while the leading actor categories see Benedict Cumberbatch, Eddie Redmayne, Ralph Fiennes, Felicity Jones and Rosamund Pike flying the flag for Britain. However, they face stiff competition from Jake Gyllenthaal, Michael Keaton, Amy Adams, Julianne Moore and Reese Witherspone.
- 11.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather
- 11.30 The Apprentice USA. The celebrity candidates have to create a promotional display for a famous brand of suntan lotion.
- 12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead.

#### BBC<sub>2</sub>

6.20 Great British Garden Revival. (R)
7.20 Glorious Gardens from Above. (R)
8.95 Countryfile. (R) 9.00 The Football
League Show. (R) 10.20 Six Nations
Revind. 11.20 Saturday Kitchen Best
Bites. 12.50 James Martin: Home
Comforts. (R) 1.20 Food & Drink. (R)
1.50 Film: The Mouse That Roared.
(1959) Comedy, starring Peter Sellers.
3.15 Open All Hours. (R) 3.45 To the
Manor Born. (R) 4.15 H-de-Hil (R) 4.45
Flog It! Trade Secrets. 5.15 Alaska —
Earth's Frozen Kingdom. (R)
6.15 Ski Sunday. Graham Bell and Ed
Leigh present from the alpine

- Leigh present from the alpine skiing World Championships in Vail/Beaver Creek, Colorado, featuring the men's and women's downhill races.
- 7.00 The Motorway: Life in the Fast Lane. Documentary series charting life on the M6, one of the busiest stretches of motorway in Britain, following the teams preparing for one of the stormiest winters on record. Initially set up in answer to a January 2003 snowstorm that left drivers stranded in their cars for up to 18 hours, these teams have been preparing for snow and ice but now find themselves facing the stormiest winter in more than 40 years. It's all hands on deck if the Highways Agency is to save its
- years. It's all hands on deck if the Highways Agency is case vits reputation. (R)

  8.00 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May attempt to improve the ambulance, with each enhancing the one area they think could do with an overhaul.
- with an overhaul.

  9.00 Dragons' Den. Ideas pitched include an idea for giving high heels a new lease of life, eco friendly coffins, a sleek new take on the electric toothbrush and an online shopping service for men.

  10.00 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman introduces the latest Premier League matches, featuring West Ham United v Manchester United, Burnley v West Bromwich Albion and West Bromwich Albion and Newcastle United v Stoke City.
- 11.15 Film: Disconnect. (2012) The 1.10-1im: Disconnect. (2012) The complex lives of several strangers are made far more problematic by the technology they use to communicate. Ensemble drama, starring Jason Bateman.

  1.95 Film: Savage Grace. (2007) 2.30 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 3.25 Holby
- Sign Zone: Countryfile. (n) 2.2 City. (R) 4.25 This Is BBC Two.

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. 6.10 Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.20 Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Cannimals. (R) 7.10 Souty. (R) 7.35 Scrambled Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.30 Scrambled: Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man. 6.30 Scrambled! Ultimate Spider-Man. 6.30 Scrambled! Deadtime Stories. (R) 9.25 The Jermy Kyle Show. (R) 12.30 ITV Mews: Weather. 12.40 Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes. (R) 1.40 Off Their Rockers. (R) 2.10 Mel & Sue's Best Bits. 3.15 Tipping Point. (R) 4.15 Film: Moonraker. (1979) James Bond spy adventure, starring Roger Moore. 6.35 Regional Programme; Weather. 7.00 Get Your Act Together. Stars.

- 6.45 ITV News, weather. Steps singer Claire Richards is mentored by fire-eating act the Black Fire Girls, former politician Ann Widdecombe joins circus ringmaster Norman Barrett, oneringmaster Norman Barrett, one-time Cornation Street star Oliver Mellor (Or Matt Carter) is coached by musical quintet the Bottle Boys, TOWIE'S Elliott Wright teams up with Cyr wheel performer Billy George, and TV personality Nancy Dell'Olio Collaborates with illusionist Hans Klok. Host Stephen Mulhern follows the rehearsals leading up to the contestants' big performances as they compete for a place in the final in two weeks' time.
- 8.15 All Star Family Fortunes Benidorm actress Crissy Rock (Janey) and Ian "H" Watkins from Steps team up with their families in an attempt to win a jackpot of £30,000 for charity.
- 9.00 Mr Selfridge. Harry pushes ahead with plans for the Selfridge Estate, aiming to buy a field at auction, but an unexpected rival bidder poses a threat. Miss Mardle makes her mark in fashion. 10.00 ITV News; Weather.
- 10.15 Perspectives: Lenny Henry Finding Shakespeare. The comedian charts his changing relationship with the Bard, from finding his works boring as a child to starring in productions of Othello and The Comedy of Errors. (R)
- 11.15 LV= Cup Rugby Union. 12.15 The Store. 2.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.15 ITV Nightscreen.

#### **CHANNEL 4**

6.20 NFL: Rush Zone. 6.45 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.10 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 Frásier, (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Nipht Feast. (R) 1.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.55 The Simpsons. (R) 3.25 Film: Marmaduke. (2010) Comedy, starring Lee Pace. 5.2 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.55 The Simpsons. (R) 3.25 Film: Marmaduke. (2010) Channel 4 News. 5.07 Film: Lee Alg. (2002) Animated adventure, with the voice of John Leguizamo.

7.00 The Jump. Davina McCall presents the semi-final, as the six remaining celebrittes complete in high-speed, head-to-head

- snowboarding races negotiating the steep banks of a slalom tunnel Concludes tomorrow at 8pm
- The Hotel. Mark wants to make the Cavendish more child-friendly and asks general manager James to take charge of a family fun day, hoping the task will make him more decisive in his role.
- more decisive in his role.

  9.00 Our Guy in India. Part two of two. Guy Martin visits Mumbai, where more skyscrapers are being built than anywhere else in the world, and clambers. 833ft to the top of India's tallest building, the Imperial. Back on ground level, the daredevil visits a slum where a million people live in the space of one square mile, before experiencing a downnour. in the space of the square films before experiencing a downpour on his Royal Enfield with the arrival of the monsoons. To avoid slow-moving and dangerous roads, he makes the final leg of his 1,000-mile journey by sea, on his way to compete in Rider Mania.
- 10.05 8 Out of 10 Cats Does 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson are joined by Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer, while Jack Whitehall is in Dictionary Corner with Susie Dent. Jimmy Carr hosts. (R)
- Dent. Jimmy Carr nosts. (H)

  11.05 Film: Patriot Games. (1992) A
  former CIA agent prevents an
  assassination attempt by an IRA
  splinter group, but one of the
  terrorists swears revenge on him.
  Thriller, starring Harrison Ford and
  Sean Bean.
- 1.10 The Last Leg. (R) 2.05 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.10 Kirstie's Best of Both Worlds. (R) 5.05 A Place in the Sun:

Cubicle with low

level tray

15 SQM Wall Tiles

Tiled Floor

New Basin & WC

/AT FREE

in

#### **CHANNEL 5**

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshakel: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 6.30 Pip Ahoyl (R) 6.40 The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.55 Chole's Closet. 7.10 Oily the Little White Van. 7.15 Bannas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.30 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.40 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.55 Little Princess. (R) 6.30 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corty. (R) 8.20 Wanda and the Alien. 8.30 Zack and Quack. (R) 8.40 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.55 Jelly Jamm. (R) 9.10 Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) 9.25 LazyTown. (R) 9.55 SpongeBob SquareParts. 10.30 Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) 11.25 Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) 11.26 Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) 11.27 Pilm: It Could Happen to Vou. (1994) Romantic comedy, with Nicolas Cage and Bridget Proda. 3.15 Pilm: Ver Her Dead Body. (2005) Supernatural romantic comedy. (2005) Supernatural romantic comedy. (2012) Comedy drama, starring Canterio Diaz. 6.55 Film: Miss Congeniality 2- Armed and Extension St. 4 America. 15 Film: Wilss Congeniality 2- Armed and Extension St. 4 America. 15 Film: Miss Congeniality 2- Armed and Extension St. 4 America. 15 Film: Miss Congeniality 2- Armed and Extension St. 4 America. 15 Part 15 Pilm: Miss Congeniality 2- Armed and Extension St. 4 America. 15 Pilm: Miss Congeniality 2- Armed and Extension St. 4 America. 15 Pilm: Miss Congeniality 2- Armed and Extension St. 4 America. 15 Pilm: Miss Congeniality 2- Armed and Extension St. 4 America. 15 Pilm: Miss Congeniality 2- Armed and Extension St. 4 America. 15 Pilm: Miss Congeniality 2- Armed and Extension St. 4 America. 15 Pilm: Miss Congeniality 2- Armed and Extension St. 4 America. 15 Pilm: Miss Congeniality 2- Armed and Extension St. 4 America. 15 Pilm: Miss Congeniality 2- Armed and Extension St. 4 America. 15 Pilm: Miss Congeniality 2- Armed and Extension St. 4 America. 15 Pilm: Miss Congeniality 2- Armed and Extension St. 4 America. 15 Pilm: Miss Congeniality 2- Armed and Extension St. 4 America. 15 Pilm: Miss Congeniality 2- Armed and Exten

- Comedy orama, starring Cameron Diaz.

  6.55 Film: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous. (2005) FBI agent Gracie Hart is taken of factive duty and made the face of the bureau's publicity campaign, but would rather catch crooks than be the focus of media attention so when her friends are kidnapped. she disobeys orders to run her own undercover investigation v the help of a short-tempered colleague. Comedy sequel, starring Sandra Bullock.
- starring Sandra Búllock.

  Film: The Bounty Hunter. (2010)

  Premiere. A bail enforcement agent is assigned the task of tracking down his own ex-wife, a wily reporter chasing a story about a murder cover-up. However, bringing his former spouse to justice is harder than he anticipated, not least because she bas also heen tarented by the has also been targeted by the criminal she is investigating.
  Action comedy, starring Gerard Butler and Jennifer Aniston.
- 11.20 Film: Zack and Miri Make a
  Porno. (2008) Two friends decide
  to shoot a porn film, but find
  having sex for the cameras makes
  them rethink their feelings for
- ulern retrink their feelings for each other. Comedy, starring Seth Rogen and Elizabeth Banks.

  1.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 10 Most Annoying Things About 1999. (R) 4. 00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 5.15 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racting Car. (R)

#### **DIGITAL**

BBC Three
7. 00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes 7.10 The
Voice UK 8.30 The British Academy Film
Awards: Red Carpet 9.00 Backchat with Jack
Whitehall and His Dad 9.30 Russell Howard's
Good News 10.00 Family Guy 10.45 Crims
11.15 American Dad 11.1.35 Family Guy
12.00 Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His
Dad 12.30 South Side Story 1.00 Bangkok
Airport 1.55 Abortion: Teland's Guilty Secret?
2.55 Bangkok Airport 3.50 Goods
BBC Four
7.00 The Great War 7.40 Belegick Mid Col.

BBC Four 7.00 The Great War 7.40 Britain's Wild Places 8.00 Mark Lawson Talks to Celia Imrie 9.00 Horizon: Why Can't We Predict Earthquakes? 10.00 The Sky 41 Night 10.30 Kings of 70s Romance 11.30 Genesis: Together & Apart 1.00 Genesis: Three Sides Live 2.25 TOTP2: Genesis 3.10 The Sky at Night 3.40 Close 11.30 Deirdre and Me: A Tribute 12.00 Take

Me Out 1.15 Take Me Out - The Gossip 2.00 Scorpion 2.55 Film: Rumor Has It (2005) 4.55 Film: Despicable Me (2010) 6.50 Film: She's the Man (2006) 9.00 The Ibiza Weekender 10.00 The Keith Lemon Sketch Show 10.30 Film: Little Man (2006) 12.25 Film: I Nov Pronounce You Chuck & Larry (2007)

1133 Agatha Christie's Sparkling Cyanide
1.49 Rosemary & Thyme 2.40 Agatha
Christie's Marple 4.40 Inspector Morser 7.00
Lewis 9.00 The Best of the Royal Variety
10.00 Northern Lights 11.05 Wycliffe 12.10
Film: The Breaktast Club (1985) 2.05
Countrywise Kitchen 2.55 On the Buses 3.20
117/3 Nightscreen 3.40 Emmerdale

17V4
2.15 Film: Blues Brothers 2000 (1998) 4.40
Film: Police Academy 2: Their First
Assignment (1995) 6.30 Africa Cup of
Nations Live. The final (Kick-off 7.00pm),
9.30 Storage Wars 10.00 Film: Poriven to Kill
(2009) 12.00 River Monsters: Untold Stories
1.00 Hell on Wheels 1.55 The Cycle Show
2.55 [TV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping
E4

E4
12. 30 Revenge 1.30 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 2.30 The 100 3.30 Melissa & Joey 4.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 5.00 Marry Me 5.30 The Big Bang Theory 6.30 The Jump: On the Piste 7.00 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Film: Mission: Impossible (1996) 1.01 On In Inbetweeners 11.15 The Big Bang Theory 12.20 2 Broke Girls 12.45 Rules of Engagement 1.45 The New Normal Film4

Film4
11.00 A Man Alone (1955) 1.00 Ice Age:
Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) 2.45 Addams
Family Values (1993) 4.35 Three Men and a
Baby (1987) 6.45 The Company Men (2010)
9.00 Paul (2011) 11.05 Fitzcarraido (1982)
2.15 The Punk Singer (2013) 4.00 Close



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# Chronicle

#### 16 Blocks, Channel 5, 11pm

A burned-out detective is given the task of escorting a criminal to court to testify against a group of corrupt policemen – but what seems to be a routine assignment quickly turns into a deadly game of cat and mouse as the crooked officers try to stop them reaching the courthouse alive. Thriller, starring Bruce Willis. (2006)

The Disappearance of Alice Creed, BBC1, 12.30am Two criminals kidnap the daughter of a wealthy family. with the intention of demanding a ransom. However, the hostage is not the helpless victim she appears, while she and both her captors have secrets that threaten to Arterton, Eddie Marsan and Martin Compston. (2009)

Carry On Loving, ITV, 11.10pm

A couple who run a dating agency find themselves inundated with customers, and end up arranging a selection of very unlikely matches – while also contending with their own marital difficulties. Comedy,



#### WEDNESDAY

Dawn of the Dead, BBC1, 12.45am

Four people take refuge in a shopping mall from a horde of flesh-eating zombies, clearing out the ghouls already in residence and battening down the hatches. However, their new home is not as secure as they had hoped, and the beleaguered survivors are soon plunged into increasingly grisly battles with their undead foes. George A Romero's horror sequel, starring David Emge, Ken Foree and Gaylen Ross. (1978)

Gosford Park, ITV, 10,40pm

A weekend shooting party at a country estate is disrupted by a murder. As the numerous guests deal with their own personal agendas, their actions are quietly observed by their servants, notably an inquisitive maid, who drink in the scandalous gossip while maintaining their own strict social hierarchy. Robert Altman's period drama, starring Maggie Smith. (2001)

#### Tron: Legacy, BBC2, 11.05pm

A man searching for his father is sucked into a computer-generated world and must compete ir gladiatorial combat. Sci-fi adventure, starring Jeff Bridges and Garrett Hedlund. (2010)

## The stars shine brightly on a glittering occasion

ward shows are sycophantic and ten a penny. So why-oh-why do we find ourselves continually drawn to the predictable run of well-rehearsed accolades, TV clips, a conveyor belt of celebrity guests droning". and the winner is..." and half-hearted applause which get weaker as the evening draws on? weaker as the evening draws on?

**PICK OF THE WEEK** 

The answer is, quite simply, because they're addictive. From the moment you dare to mutter, "Let's just watch this bit..." you're hooked, unable to tear yourself away from "just one more" clip or the next star guest in case you miss a vital snippet of gossip which will be the talk of the town by the morning.

town by the morning.
So, which films and their stars will be hitting the headlines on Monday? It's highly likely that The Grand Budapest Hole, Birdman and The Theory of Everything will dominate the ceremony – The Grand Budapest Hotel leads the way with 11 nominations, while the other two trail not very far behind with 10 each.

But the likes of The Imitation Game. Boyhood, Whiplash, Nightcrawler and homegrown favourites Mr Turner and Pride have the potential to cause a

It's a big night for host Stephen Fry too – this will be the 10th time he's presented the event, which takes place once again at London's Royal Opera House in Covent Garden.

"Hosting the Film Awards has aways been a highlight of my year," says Fry. "The opportunity to help the Academy promote filmmaking and encourage cinema-going means a lot to me.

"I've met many heroes and had the honour of introducing many young talents that are now busy forging remarkable careers for themselves. Seeing the photos from each year back I can chart my bewildering changes in weight too...

"Hard as it may be for some characteristically sceptical Britons to believe, the Bafas have real kudos, reputation and cachet all over the world of film-making," he adds. "I, old as I am, never cease to be shamelessly glamorised by the sight of company leagneds accepted when the sight of company leagned when the sight of company leagneds accepted when the sight of company leagned when the sight of company leagneds accepted when the sight of company leagneds of so many legendary names who come every year as nominees and presenters."

Everyone at the BBC will be smilling on the night too – its film division is assured of at least one gong, having been given the Outstanding Contribution to British Cinema award.

"I cannot think of a more deserving institution for this award than BBC Films, unbelievably in its 25th year and with more than 250 predominantly British films in its catalogue," explains Nick Powell, chairman of Bafta's film committee.

"With a wide range of films from populist British box office hits like Billy Elliot and Mrs Brown's Boys D'Movie and an enviable collection of groundbreaking films, I hope that this award breaking lilms, I nope that this award will be not simply a recognition of past and present achievements but also an affirmation of why BBC Films is so important for the film industry both here in the UK and further afield. Here's to the next 25 years."

Too right – with a great track record to date, we get the feeling this won't be the last award BBC Films wins. In fact, expect its staff to get not just a pat on the back at this ceremony, but at many more similar events for decades to come.



Stephen Fry hosts, The British Academy Film Awards, Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

#### **BEST OF THE REST**

#### MONDAY

Heston's Recipe for Romance

Channel 4, 9pm Every year, around 16 million couples in the UK celebrate Valentine's Day with a romantic meal, but is there really a connection between food and love? In this one-off special, Heston Blumenthal joins forces with a team of scientists and psychologists to put together a menu they hope will affect how people feel about each other. Five couples at different stages of their relationships are invited to a dinner that includes chocolate in every course, plus a 'Cupid's cocktail, featuring a scent designed to trigger a romantic memory.

#### TUESDAY The Secret Life of Four-Year-Olds Channel 4, 8pm

Documentary exploring the world of 10 four-yearolds as they meet in a nursery rigged with cameras that capture every glance, whisper, tussle and emotion. With their parents watching on monitors. the children encounter one another for the first time in October and then again in May. Overseeing the action are two experts – educational neuroscientist Paul Howard-Jones and developmental psychologist Sam Wass - as the youngsters make and break friendships, and find their place in this new social group.

#### The Gift BBC1, 9pm

New series, Mel Giedrovc and Matt Baker meet people who would like to find someone after many years so they can say thank you or sorry. In 1987, soldier Patrick Provis was left fighting for his life after being hit by an IRA mortar. An Army helicopter crew flew in to rescue him - and Patrick cannot rest until he has thanked the person who took the decision to save him. Grace Bates has spent almost 60 years wanting to apologise to Herman, the first man she ever loved. They met as teenagers in the 1950s, but a terrible mistake by Grace left Herman heartbroken.

#### WEDNESDAY The Great Comic Relief Bake Off

BBC1, 8pm Forget the fact that more than 13 million people tuned into last year's final - if you want proof that The Great British Bake Off is a genuine hit, just look at the calibre of stars turning out for this, the first of four celebrity charity edition. Sue Perkins (Mel is otherwise engaged) is on presenting duties as Joanna Lumley, Jennifer Saunders,

Lulu, and Dame Edna Everage pick up their bowls and get whisking. But while we may be impressed to see these four entertainment legends together in one tent, Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry will be judging them purely on their baking ability, as they attempt to make a giant cookie or biscuit, 12 mini fruit tarts, and a tiered chocolate cake inspired by a memorable occasion.

> THURSDAY The Mentalist

Channel 5, 10pm New series. Return of the crime drama about a consultant working for the California Bureau of Investigation, Lisbon asks

Jane not to tell their colleagues about their new relationship yet, as she only recently broke up with Agent Pike. They return to the CBI offices to find that Fmily Swallow has left for Seattle and has been replaced by

Barging Round Britain with John Sergeant, Friday, ITV, 8pm

Quantico rookie Michelle Vega

while of more

immediate concern is a case involving the murder of an FBI agent who had been investigating a gun runner. Simon Baker and Robin Tunney star.

#### FRIDAY

Barging Round Britain with John Sergeant

It seems difficult to imagine in this day and age, what with roads and trains being so reliable, but once upon a time Britain relied upon its canal network to keep its industry ticking over. Nowadays, of course, the waterways tend to be more of a lifestyle choice for those who live on them, as opposed to a necessity, and the picturesque scenery plays host to a vibrant community of like-minded people. In this new eight part series, broadcaster John travels the length and breadth of the nation's canals as he meets some of the unique people who call them home He begins at the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, which at 127 miles is the country's longest, and enjoys the view as he crosses the Pennines.

#### NCIS: New Orleans Channel 5, 9pm

New feature-length episode introducing the new NCIS spin-off, Gibbs heads to Louisiana to help an old friend track down a killer. Mark Harmon and Scott Bakula star











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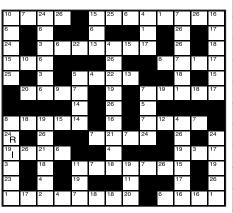
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#### Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



		LAST	WEE	K'S S	OLU	TION:	:					12	25
1	4 _	5	6	7_	8 _	9	10	11_	12	13			
	G	Q	X	Z	L		Y	P	F	M	1	13	26
l	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		-	
	B	R	l J	Т	U	w	0	ΙE	C	ΙΔΙ			

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both

#### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

- 1. Their manipulations won't be right (4-7)
- 9. See 15 Across
- 10. A base for one who is forging (5)
- 11. Little room of classical associations
- 12. Nun gets disturbed by weapon (4-3)
- 13. You'll find me in the way, as the wanderer did (6)
- 15 & 9Ac. Tools used by toboggan manufacturers? (6-7)
- 18. This presents any escape from a bottle-neck (7)
- 20. It's a piece of simple attire (5)
- 22. Trees that may be scattered to the winds? (5)
- 23. Substitute on his feet endlessly (5-2)
- 24. Liberated retainers who own land (11)

#### Down

- 2. The ant is back in the stem, methinks (5)
- the last of the wine is sweet stuff (7)
- 4. Provide aid for a vessel before it's wrecked (6)
- 5. Bird, the famous sailor (5)
- 6. Stormed around Virginia and did some pillaging (7)
  7. It's occupied by the
- stall-holder (7,4) 8 Secret tribe to appoint to a certain state (11)
- 14. An Old Testament female a different one (7) 16. Friend returns to
- touch down in the far north (7) 17. Put the others in the
- Post Office quickly 19. Some cheap stones here if you want to make some dough
- 21. Tree of greater age (5)

#### **Quick Clues:**

#### Across

- 1. Abbreviation (11)
- 9. Edible (7) 10. At no time (5)
- 11. Eat away (5)
- 12. Sure (7)
- 13. Save (6)
- 15. Cling (6)
- 18. Representative (7)
- 20. Of towns (5)
- 22. Smell (5)
- 23. Beginning (7)
- 24. Unrelenting (11)

#### Down

- 2. Excel (5)
- 3. Vivid representation (7)
- 4. Medium (6)
- 5. Singer (5)
- 6. Preclude (7)
- 7. Insight (11) 8. Inebriation (11)
- 14. Fancy (7)
- 16. Daily (7)
- 17. Lines up (6)

Niner

- 19. Freight (5)
- 21. Foundation (5)

## LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Toy-shops; 5 Idol; 9 Flea; 10 In camera; 11 Seals; 12 Oversee; 13 Slow punctures; 18 Artistry; 19 Rued; 20 Pimpled; 21 Agate; 22 Ring; 23 Bedstraw. Down: 2 Oil-welj; 3 Swallow; 4 Pontoon-bridge; 6 Dresser; 7 Leaders; 8 Talent; 13 Scamper; 14 Ottoman; 15 Pestle; 16 Upright; 17 Electra. QUICK - Across: 1 Jettison; 5 Stem; 9 Wand; 10 Addition; 11 Tu-tor; 12 Include; 13 Senselessness: 18 Antildote: i Jeuison; o Stem; 9 Wand; 10 Addition; 11 Tu-tor; 12 Include; 13 Senselessness; 18 Antidote; 19 Seek; 20 Liberal; 21 Train; 22 Whet; 23 Assemble. Down: 2 Erasure; 3 Tedious; 4 Old wives' tales; 6 Tribute; 7 Manners; 8 Discus; 13 Shallow; 14 Notable; 15 Endure; 16 Nostrum;

Sudoku

3 1 5

Fill in the grid below so that

every column every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains

all the digits

from 1 to 9.

3 8

7

9

6

9

9

2

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

752435	gives a flower,
1368	gives a tree,
9887	gives a plant.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--

#### Quiz

ˈн ဵs Їv

KDN

- Which film star was born Margarita Carmen Cansino?
- Of which autonomous Spanish region is Pamplona capital?
- Of what nationality was Errol Flynn?
- At which racecourse is the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe run?
- Who, in the Old Testament, fashioned the Golden Calf?
- Pennsylvania was originally established as a refuge for which religious sect?
- Which Gospel author is patron saint of
- Which pipe-making material is also called sepiolite?
- In which US state is Fort Knox?
- 10. How are artists Proesch and Passmore better known?

EPC: D

#### Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 The old London Bridge; 2 Glasgow;

3 A bird: 4 Hallev's Comet: 5 Bob Fosse: 6

Iceland: 7 Brian Redhead: 8 All Saints' Dav:

9 Sugar Ray Leonard; 10 Robert Kennedy.

Niner: SPREADING

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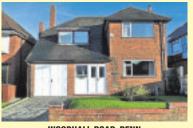
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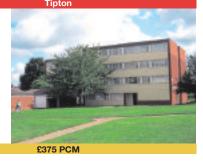
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agency service whilst being part of a multi office structure in turn this

helps keep costs down and are therefore able to pass these savings onto our clients in a genuine value for money package that will not compromise

#### **Burleigh Road**

- Upvc Windows Two Reception
- Rooms
- Re-fitted Kitchen Two Double
- Bedrooms
   Family Bathroom
- Garden
   Epc To Come



#### Penn Road

- Large Three Bed
- Lounge/separate dining room

  Modern Fitted
- Kitchen

  EPC Rating is C



- **Goldthorne Avenue** Detached Property
- Good Location
   Extended layout
   Fitted kitchen
- Large Extra Building
- in rear garden

  EPC Ratiing D

#### **Prestwood Road**

- Investment
- Opportunity

  Four Bedroom House
- Central Heating
- Double GlazedCould Be Converted
- to two apartments Subject To Permission

  • EPC Rating E



Charles Derby The Estate Agent' offers a choice of highly competitive

- fee menus to suit all budgets, which include: Free pre-sale appraisals and marketing advice
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- · A comprehensive customer orientated website
- Eye catching 'For Sale' boards

customer service expectations.

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- Multiple agency specialists

## 30 Walsall Road, Willenhall



## Tel: 01922 404446

74c Park Road, Bloxwich WS3 3SW 36 Brownshore Lane, Essington WV11 2AL











Glaisedale Grove Kingfishers, Willenhal

- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, kitchen

End town house

Gas centrally heated

PVCu double glazed

Lounge, dining kitchen
 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC

Parking and large gardens

NO ONWARD CHAIN £75,000

- 2 bedrooms, bathroom/WC

- Parking and gardens
  VIEWING ESSENTIAL
  £125,000

Ryle Street



50% Shared Ownership



- First Floor Flat
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed Kitchen, lounge
- 2 bedrooms, bathroom/WC

£70,000



#### Hill Street Essington Spacious first floor flat

- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed Lounge, kitchen
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom
- Outside store
  Garage (available to rent)
  £74,995

Ground Floor Apartment





Woodcroft Court, 27 Hawbush Road,

Lounge, Kitchen Area
2 Bedrooms, Shower room/WC
Communal Gardens, Allocated secure parking

Valley Road, Bloxwich

- Traditional mid terro
- PVCu double glazed

- Lounge, breakfast kitchen
   Guest cloaks/WC, conservate
   3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- 9 3 bedrooms, ...
   Parking and gardens
   £94,950





- Period Mid Terra
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom
- Two Double Bedroo
- Enclose Regi
- Garden
  No Onward ChaiN
  £83,000



- Extended Mid-Terraced House Double Glazing a Gas Central Heating
- 3 Bedrooms, 2 Reception Rooms
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Front and Rear Garden
- Pront and Nou.
  No Onward Chain
  £89,995







## Rowan Drive

- Essington Modern Detached Home Gas Central Heatina, Double Glazina
- Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen Large Split level Lounge/Dining Room
- Utility, Guest Cloaks/WC 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom/WC

• 3 Bedrooms, parking • Block Paved Parking £179,950



- Newly Refurbished
- Gas Centrally Heated
   PVCu Double Glazed
- ,2 Double Bedrooms, Re-Fitted Bathroom
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- NO ONVYAND Re-Fitted kitchen £110,000



- Partially Double Glazed
- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Garage
   Parking, Gardens
- Gas Centrally Heated
- Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen £225,000



- End Town House PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining kitchen, utility
- 2/3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Ample off road parking Neat fore and rear gardens

Gas centrally heated

PVCu double glazed

Kitchen, lounge, dining room bathroom/WC

Parking, garage, gardens

Viewing Essential £95,000





- Semi-Detached House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen, Side Covered Way

  down stairs WC, Three Excellent Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom/WC Neatly Kept Front and Rear Garder Offered with no onward chain £102500





- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
   PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, kitchen, dining room
- Outside WC and stores Parking and gardens £114,950





Spacious mid terrac Gas centrally heated Lounge, Dining, Kitcher £115,000





- Gas centrally heated
  PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining kitchen 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Detached garage, driveway Fore and rear gardens £120,000



www.marion.co.uk









Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Dine
 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom/WC
 Two Allocated Parking Spaces

Front and Rear Gardens







Double Glazed a Centrally Heated

Lounge/Diner, Re-Fitted Bathro Conservatory, Garage

3 bedrooms, Re-fitted Breakfast Kitchen





£225,000



Double Glazing



## Estate House, Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 1DA

0121 289 3838



at 6.00pm Precisely

Banks's Stadium, Walsall Football Club, Bescot Crescent, Walsall, WS1 4SA

#### Lazyhill Road Aldridge



This purpose built first floor maisonette is situated on Lazy Hill Road With the benefit of gas fired central heating and double glazing th property would make an ideal investment opportunity as it is in need of some improvement and modernisation. Set back behind a driveway with

●Auction Guide Price £77,500 PLUS

#### Mill Lane **Short Heath**



●GUIDE PRICE £125,000 PLUS

#### Blakenall Lane Walsall



deally suited to the needs of an investor this traditionally styled semi detached property offers well appointed and maintained nodation, conveniently located for all amenities. Cash offers only are invited dues to mining issues (prospective purchasers are dvised to check the coal mining report). The gas centrally heated and double glazed accommodation comprises: Enclosed Porch, Lounge/ Dining Room, Breakfast Room, Fitted Kitchen with range of fitted units, Shower Room, Utility Room and 3 Bedrooms.

●GUIDE PRICE £60,000 - £70,000

#### Westbourne Road Walsall



This Substantial double fronted semi-detached property is situated in an ideal location for Walsall town centre and offers great potential for investors. The property is in need of some refurbishment and offers great scope for improvement and possible development with whichigal access to the site. The centrally headed and double glazed property comprises:—Entrance Hall, W.C, Living Room, Lounge, Kitchen,Bathroom, Four Bedrooms, Two Large Storage Rooms and Outbuilding. EPC Rating E.

●GUIDE PRICE £150,000 PLUS

## **High Street** Burntwood

enveniently situated close to all amenities this semi detached cottain penefits from gas fired central heating and uPVC double glazing. of interest to a builder or investor, the property comprises: Lounge Kitchen, Bathroom and Two Bedrooms, EPC Rating D. Viewings: 27th

#### Bhylls I ane Wolverhampton



•GUIDE PRICE 80,000 PLUS

#### **Eversley Dale** Erdington



and suitable for wheelchair users the property briefly comprises: Porcl 31 January midday, Sat 7 February midday, Sat 14 February midday

●GUIDE PRICE £100,000 PLUS

#### Lichfield Road Sandhills



•GUIDE PRICE £77,500 PLUS

#### Harvey Road Staffordshire



eating and double glazing but is in need of general imp and modernisation. Ideally suited to builder or investor the property is conveniently located in the popular village of Handsacre with al amenities close at hand. Reception Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen Three Bedroom, Bathroom. EPC Rating D. Viewings: Friday 23rd

●GUIDE PRICE £82,000 PLUS

#### •GUIDE PRICE £69,000 PLUS Carisbrooke Drive



●GUIDE PRICE £63,000 PLUS

#### **Darwin Court** Lichfield

●GUIDE PRICE £120,000 PLUS

#### **Dunstall Road** Wolverhampton



lowing:- Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Store Room, Re

•GUIDE PRICE £65,000 PLUS

#### Ely Place Walsall



●GUIDE PRICE £45,000 PLUS

#### High Street Burntwood



●GUIDE PRICE £69,000 PLUS

#### **Allman Road Erdington**



●GUIDE PRICE £165,000 PLUS

#### Broadway North Walsall



of South Walsall and boasts the benefit of gas fired central heating and double glazing. With all amenities close at hand the property comprise

●GUIDE PRICE £200,000 PLUS

#### Westminster Road Rushall



m, Dining Room, Bathroom and Kitchen. EPC Rating E ●GUIDE PRICE £125,000 PLUS

#### 3B and 3C Kingswood Drive Great Wyrley



●GUIDE PRICE £65,000 PLUS

#### Abbey Road Erdington



•GUIDE PRICE £70,000 - £75,000

 Guides are provided as an indication of each seller's minimum expectation. They are not necessarily figures which a property will sell for and may change at any time prior to the auction. Each property will be offered subject to a Reserve (a figure below which the Auctioneer cannot sell the property during the auction) which we expect will be set within the Guide Range or no more than 10% above a single figure Guide









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#### BLOXWICH ENVILLE CLOSE



£212.500 OFFERS

£69,500





**BLOXWICH** LICHFIELD ROAD

drooms uble glazing & gas central heating



£125,000 OFFERS

WALSALL ELM ROAD

- - 9,950 CASH OFFERS ONLY







£174,950 OFFERS



#### BLOXWICH ROC

£89,950 OFFERS

## SKITTS FSTATE AGENTS











£99,950 OFFERS

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£94,950 OFFERS





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£180,000



OFFERS OVER £150,000



COPPICE FARM BEMBRIDGE CLO







- Three Bedrooms
   Bathroom
   Double Glazing Gas Central Heating
   Garage & Driveway



VILLENHALL DILLOWAYS LANE





WILLENHALL DARVEL ROAD

- Much improved modern
   3 bedrooms
   Lounge with dining area
   Refitted kitchen



£130,000



WILLENHALL WOLVER



£125,000



ESSINGTON HOUGH WAY



- Fitzed Kitchiën
  Two Bedrooms Bathiron
  Two Bedrooms Bathiron
  Double Clazing
  Allocated Parking Space
  OFFERS OVER £110,000



WILLENHALL CHILTERN DRIVE



- Bathroom
  Double Glazing
  Driveway
  Rear Gardens

£104,950

£97,000



Three Bedrooms Lounge ● Dining Kitcher Bathroom





£99,950







£99,500



all with we uperb refitted dining kitchen



- HORT HEATH SOUTHEY CLOSE



£89,950





- - OFFERS OVER £70,000

## SKITTS ESTATE AGENTS





OFFERS OVER £169,950

- WILLENHALL ALVINGTON CLOSE

£139,950





- £137,500



£135,000

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wednesfield@skitts.net 01902 732324 wednesbury@skitts.net 0121 505 1818 sedgley@skitts.net 01902 686868 0121 520 2255 greatbridge@skitts.net dudley@skitts.net 01384 214 996 01922 478104 bloxwich@skitts.net bilston@skitts.net 01902 353578 0121 530 4240 westbromwich@skitts.net 01902 788188 wolverhampton@skitts.net lettings@skitts.net 0121 520 2255 0121 520 2255 surveyors@skitts.net





- Modern Semi Dec
   Popular Location
   Lounge
   Re-Fitted Kitcher



£114,950



WILLENHALL KEYSMITH CLOSE



£89,950





£88,000







- NEW INVENTION BARMOUTH CLOSE
- Dining Room Re-Fitted Kitchen, Utility





WILLENHALL YALE ROA







Landscaped Rear Gardens Permission for Two Storey Side Extension OFFERS OVER £135,000



- WILLENHALL DILLO



- Breakfast John Int Front & Rear Gardens Int Front & Rear Gardens State Heating Double Glazing £117,500



- WILLENHALL YALE ROAD



£115,000



WILLENHALL VERNON CLOSE



£105,000

£80,000



WILLENHALL BENTON CLOSE, OFF S







WILLENHALL ST ANNE'S ROAD



£83,000



- WILLENHALL BO

- - NEW INVENTION CANNOCK ROAD

    Much Improved Modern Style Mid Town House
    Lounge & Re-Fitted Kitchen

    Double Bedroom

    Bather Bathroom
     Double glazing
     Pleasant rear garder



£78,000





£69,995





Walsall 7 Queens Parade, Walsall, WS3 2EX







- Lounge
   Open Plan Kitchen/Diner
   Utility/Guest W.C.
   Master Bedroom with En-Suite
   Three Further First Floor Bedrooms

In the Region Of £335,000



- Large Detached Bungalow In Private Slip Road
   Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Conservatory
   Two Bedrooms, Two Shower Rooms
   Garage, Rear Gardens



Lichfield Road, Walsall

Extended Four Bedroom Detached

Highest Specification

Sought After Location

Block Paved Driveway

Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

Immaculate Presentation

Offers in Excess of £280,000



Mount Road, Walsall

- Mount Road, Walsall
  Four Bedroom Detached
  Two Reception Rooms
  Breakfast Kitchen with Appliances
  Utility
  Further Reception/Garage
  En-Suite Bathrooms



Lichfield Road, Walsall

- Four Bedroom Detached Bungalow
  Situated In a Plot just under 1 Acre
  Lounge
  Kitchen
  Utility area
  Shower room with seperate shower

In the Region Of £264,995



Broad Lane, Wolverhampton

- Four Bedroom Detached
   Entrance Hall
   Two Reception Rooms
   Conservatory
   Extended Kitchen
   Master Bedroom En-Suite

Offers in Excess of £250,000



- Modern Five Bedroom Deta
   Sought After Development
   Two Reception Rooms
   Guest Cloakroom
   Utility Room
   Refitted Kitchen



- Four Bedroom Detached
- Porch
   Breakfast Kitchen
   Dining Room/Playroo
   Through Lounge
   Conservatory

£195,000



- Impressive Four Bedroom Detached
- Property
  Two reception rooms
  Conservatory
  Kitchen
  Utility Room



- • NEW BUILD • •
   Three Bedroom Detached
   Open Plan Lounge/Ritchen/Dining Room
   Downstairs Cloak Room
   Master Bedroom
   En-Suite Shower Room



- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
  Two Reception Rooms
  Kitchen
  Utility
  Family Bathroom
  Large Rear Garden



- Three Bedroom Detached
  Through Lounge/Dinig Room
  Fitted Kitchen
  Utility
  Master Bedroom with En-Suite
  Family Bathroom



Offers in Excess of £155,000

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
  In Need of Modernisation
  Two Reception Rooms
  Kitchen
  Side Passageway
  Downstairs W.C.



- Four Bedroom Modern Link Detached

- Guest w.c.
   2nd Floor Master Bedroom & En-Suite

£150,000



Clarkes Lane, Willenhall

- Extended Three Bedro
   Two Reception Rooms
   Fitted Kitchen
   Utility/Guest W.C.
   Conservatory
   Three Bedrooms



Lichfield Road, Walsall

Kitchen
 Utility Room
 Guest WC
 Luxury Family Shower Room

In the Region Of £134,950



- Oakridge Close, Willenhall

Inree Deursen
Lounge
Kitchen/Diner
Family Bathroom
Entrance Porch
Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating



The Brambles, Cannock





Lumley Road, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
   Two Reception Rooms
   Fitted Kitchen
   Ground Floor Shower Room
   Two Double Bedroom to First Floor
   First Floor W.C.



Dalby Road, Walsall



Station Street, Walsall



- Three Bedroom End-Terrace

Lounge
 Kitchen/Diner
 Guest W.C.
 Master Bedroom with Walk-In Wardrobe
Area



- Three Bedroom End Terrace
   Off Road Parking
   Porch
   Lounge
   Fitted Kitchen
   Ground Floor WC



In the Region Of £99,995

Manorhouse Close, Walsall

Two Bed Terrace
Open Plan Lounge Diner
Kitchen
Utility/storage Room
Family Bathroom
Gas Central Heating



Two Bedroom Modern Apartment
Canalside Development
Secure Communal Entrance
Top Floor
Spacious Lounge
Juliet Balcony





Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
Two Reception Rooms
Kitchen
Side Entrance
Utility/Guest W.C.
Family Bathroom



- Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
  Lounge with Juliet Balcony
  Fitted Kitchen
  Master Bedroom with En-Suite
  Further Double Bedroom
  Family Bathroom

Lounge
 Fitted Kitchen
 Two Bedrooms
 Bathroom with Shower
 Allocated Parking



Two Bedroom Apartment
First Floor with Lift Access
Entrance Hall
Lounge/Diner
Fitted Kitchen
Close to Town Centre In the Region Of £94,950



Weston Street, Walsall

Dora Street, Walsall

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Guest W.C.
 Two Double Bedrooms

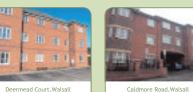




Bridgwater Close, Walsall



TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT
Secured Entrance
Gas Central Heating
Double Glazing
Open Plan Lounge & Kitchen
Master Bedroom with En-Suite





In the Region Of £95,000



Manorhouse Close, Walsall

Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
Two Double Bedrooms
Family Bathroom
Double Glazing
Gas Central Heating Well Presented Two Bedroom End Terrace
 No Upward Chain
 Spacious Lounge
 Refitted Kitchen/Diner
 Two Double Bedrooms
 Gas Central Heating Offers in Excess of £80,00

- BirminghamBurntwood
- Stoke-on-TrentSutton Coldfield
- WalsallWednesburyWednesfieldWolverhampton

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Walsall 7 Queens Parade, Walsall, WS3 2EX







- Wood Comm
   Guest Cloakroom
   Lounge
   Dining Room
   Conseravtory
   Kitchen Diner
   Utility Room



Leigh Road, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
  Two Reception Rooms
  Newly Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
  Study
  Family Bathroom with Walk-in Shower
  Separate W.C.

Offers in Excess of £230,000



Lincoln Road, Walsal

- Eincoln Road, Walsall

  Extended Three Bedroom Semi-Detached

  Two Reception Rooms

  Fitted Kitchen with Appliances

  Guest W.C.

  Utility

  Conservatory







Westfield Drive, Walsall Three bedroom Townho
 Gas Central Heating
 Double Glazing



- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
   Fitted Kitchen with Breakfast Area
   Rear Lobby with Guest W.C.
   Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower
   Room

In the region of £149,950



- ••• NEW BUILD ••• Three Bedroom Semi-Detached

Three Bedroom Semi-Detacing
Lounge
Fitted Kitchen/Dining Room
Downstairs Cloak Room
Master Bedroom



- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached

- Lounge
   Breakfast Kitchen
   Laundry Room
   Three Bedrooms
   Family Bathroom



- Three Bedroom Detached
  Extended Entrance Hall
  Lounge
  Fitted Kitchen with Integrated Appliance
  Family Bathroom
  Integral Garage



- Entrance Hall
   Guest Cloakroom
   Lounge
   Dining Room
   Kitchen
   Family Bathroom

Asking price of £139,950



Extended Three Bedroom Semi-Detached

- Lounge
   Fitted Kitchen
   Additional Sitting Room/Bedroom
   Ground Floor Wet Room
   Re-Fitted Family Bathroom

In the Region Of £139,950



- Two Bedroom Mid Townhouse
  Open Plan Lounge / Kitchen
  Guest W.C
  Master Bedroom wih En-Suite
  Family Bathroom
  Gas Central Heating

In the Region Of £139,500



Lindon Road, Walsall



Lindon Road, Walsall

- Porch
  Lounge
  Kitchen
  Shower Room
  Gas central heating

In the Region Of £124,995



Chester Road North, Walsall

 Lounge
 Dining Room
 Guest W.C
 Kitchen
 Family Bathroom
 Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing In the Region Of £124,950



Albert Clarke Drive, Willenhall



Lichfield Road, Willenhall



Rough Brook Road, Walsall

- ne Style Two Bedroom First Floo
- Show Home Style Two Bedroom First Fle Apartment
   Lounge/Dining Room
   Fitted Kitchen including Integrated Ap-

pliances Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower



Walkers Fold, Willenhall

- Walkers Fold, Will

  Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace

  Lounge/Diner

  Kitchen

  Two Double Bedrooms

  Family Bathroom

  Front & Rear Gardens



- THREE BEDROOM TOWN HOUSE



Three Bed Terrace
Kitchen
Lean To
Double Glazing
Gas Central Heating
Two Reception Rooms

Offers in excess of £90,000



- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
  Lounge
  Kichen
  Guest W.C.
  Family Bathroom
  Verandah



- Stunning 2 Bedroom Apartment
   Lounge
   Kitchen
   Bathroom
   Gas Central Heating
   Double Glazing



Lounge
 Kitchen
 Family Bathroom
 Communal Grounds
 Double Glazing



Three Bedroom Ground Floor Flat

 One Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
 Modern Finish Throughout
 Ideal For First Time Buyers & Investors
 Spacious Open Plan Living Area
 Good Sized Double Bedroom
 Allocated & Visitor Parking In the Region Of £89,950





Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
Two Reception Rooms
Kitchen
Ground Floor Bathroom
Three Double Bedrooms
Rear Garden In the Region Of £88,000



- Edinburgh Lane, Walsall
- Edinburgn Laire, Walson
  60% Shared Ownership
   Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
   Bespoke Fitted Kitchen with Appliances
   Lounge
   Two Double Bedrooms
   Re-Fitted Family Bathroom
- Cartbridge Walk, Walsall









Two Bedroom First Floor Flat Lounge
 Fitted Kitchen
 Utility Room
 Two Bedrooms
 Family Bathroo

Clarkes Lane, Willenhall Blakenall Lane, Walsall Ideal Investment
 Two Reception Rooms
 Two Double Bedrooms
 First Floor Bathroom
 Kitchen
 Gas Central Heating







Fisher Road, Walsall

FISHER KOAD, WAISAIL
One Bedroom Ground Floor Maisonette
Lounge/Dining Room
Kitchen
Double Bedroom
Recently Fitted Shower Room
Off Road Parking



Livingstone Road, Walsall

Lounge
 Raised Dining Area
 Kitchen
 Bathroom

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- Stoke-on-TrentSutton Coldfield

- WalsallWednesburyWednesfieldWolverhampton

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### **Brownhills**

1 High Street, Brownhills, Walsall, WS8 6ED





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 Large Dormer Bungalow
 Entrance Hall, Lounge, Large
 Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Room,
 Guest W.C, Garage, •Master Bedroom With En suite Bathroom, Three Further Bathrooms, Landscaped front and rear gardens.
Block Paved Driveway.



• EXTENDED THREE BED BUNGA

- LOW 
   Cul-De-Sac location Large

- Garage
   Front, Rear & Side Garden ORF



- Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
   Fully Re-Furbished
- Two Reception Rooms
   Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Utility Room/WC

- Conservatory
  Family Bathroom
  Rear Garden
  Garages & Workshop



- Offers in Excess of £120,000





- O.I.E.O £75.000

# DO YOU



# **DISCOUNTS?**





- - O.I.R.O £114,950







### Bush Grove

- Immaculately Presented Three Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen/ Dining Room
   Three Bedrooms, Family Bath-
- Fore And Rear Gardens , Off
- Road Parking And Garage Gas Centrally Heated And Double



- Extended Three bedroom Semi Detached
- Gas central heating

- Double Glazing
   Lounge, Dining Area
   Kitchen, Conservatory
   Three Bedrooms, Family Bath-
- room

  Off Road Parking, Rear Garden



- Well Presented Three Bedroom
- Home

  •Living Room, Open Plan Kitchen
  Diner, Conservatory

  •Three Bedrooms And Family
  Bathroom

  •Large Rear Garden, Off Road
- Parking And Single Garage.



- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge/Dining Room
- ConservatoryFamily Bathroom
- Garage/Games Room
   Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

In the Region of £139,950



### Deakin Avenue BROWNHILLS

Thee bedroom end terrace

- Thee between the terrace property
   Lounge/Dining room, Kitchen, Conservatory,
   Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden Off Road Parking
- and Double Garage Chain Free



### Bloxwich Central Drive

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
  Optential for Extension
  Two Reception Rooms
  Kitchen
  Family Bathroom
- Front, Rear & side Gardens
   Garage & Off Road Parking

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Call 01543 226655 today for your Free Market Appraisal

# RESTIGE ESTA



ANNEXE

MILL LANE, WILLENHALL

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Kitchen, Galleried

Bathroom, Garage

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BLOXWICH RD STH, W'HALL SLOWICH RU SIN, W-HAD Spacious Two Bed Ground Floor Apartment, Comprises Of Open Plan Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, En-Suite Shower Room & Family Bathroom. G/C/H, D/G. Allocated Parking & Communal Courtvard. £81,500

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HORTON PLACE, DARLASTON round Floor Bathroom, Separate I.C And First Floor Shower Room I.G. G/C/H. Front & Rear Garden Off Road Parki £95,000



WALKERS FOLD, WILLENHALL Two Bedroom Mid Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, W.C, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom. D/G G/C/H Outside There Are Two Allocated Parking paces. Gardens To Front & Real £104,995



WALKERS FOLD, WILLENHALL

### REDUCED



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ALBION ROAD, WILLENHALL Three Bed Mid Terrace, Comprises Of Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Ground Floor Bathroom Floor W.C Room. D/G. G/C/H. Rea

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REDUCED

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o in BASALT CLOSE, REEDSWOOD Modern Three Bed End Town

louse, Comprises Of Kitchen House. Comprises Of Nitchen, Lounge/Diner, En-Suite To Master Bed & Bathroom, Garage, Garden To The Front With Off Road Parking An Fully Enclosed Rear Gare
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VIEWING ADVISED

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LEVESON STREET, W'HALL rch, Entrance Hall, Lounge g Room, Fitted Kitchen &



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omprises Of Entrance Porch



DILLOWAYS LANE, W'HALL mprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, ing Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground or Bathroom, W.C. D/G, G/C/H. tside There Are Gardens To th The Front And Rear. Driveway king Is Also Available.



LICHFIELD ROAD, NEW INV ining Area, Family Shower D/G, G/C/H. To The Outside Ar





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Address	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> ,11 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb		Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan, 7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb
10 Glencoe Drive, Cannock	10.00 a.m.		10.00 a.m.
17 Whitebark Close, Hednesford	10.30 a.m.		10.30 a.m.
18 Hardie Avenue, Rugeley	11.15 a.m.		11.15 a.m.
62 Hardie Avenue, Rugeley	11.30 a.m.		11.30 a.m.
11 Bradwell Lane, Cannock Wood	12.15 p.m.		12.15 p.m.
Marford, 2A Wharwell Lane, Great Wyrley	1.15 p.m.		1.15 p.m.
6 Brocton Close, Bloxwich	2.00 p.m.		2.00 p.m.
Doctors Surgery, 24 Bideford Way, Cannock	Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	3.00 pm	
	Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2.00 pm	
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LOT 8

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Ideal buy to let Ideal buy to let EPC rating E (54) GUIDE PRICE £70,000-£75,000



LOT 5

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BRADCOTT,

11 BRADWELL LANE CANNOCK WOOD **FREEHOLD** 

WITH VACANT

POSSESSION

**62 HARDIE AVFNUF** RUGELEY

**FREEHOLD** WITH VACANT

- 17 WHITEBARK CLOSE, HEDNESFORD LEASEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

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LOT 9



BUILDING PLOT ADJ BRADCOTT, 11 BRADWELL LANE, CANNOCK WOOD

permission for the erection of one



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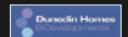




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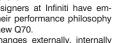
# Infiniti Q70, pulse racing

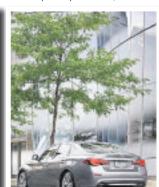
### By James Parker

The long-awaited 2015 Q70, the flagship saloon from Infiniti has just landed and is set to cause quite the storm.

The designers at Infiniti have embraced their performance philosophy with the new Q70.

With changes externally, internally and under the bonnet the results are an elegant yet striking sports saloon which exudes attitude on the outside





with its new shape LED headlights and chromes accents on the front grille Inside it still retains the class and elegance we have come to expect of an Infiniti vehicle.

Available in both Premium and Sports versions, the 2.2 diesel holds the fort with a stirring 170PS and 400 NM of torque while the 3.7-litre V6 petrol engine smashes through the gates accelerating from 0 - 63 mph in just 5.3 seconds.

Both with improved efficiency and C02 emissions at 129g/km and 145g/km respectively, the Premium is priced at a more than competitive price of £32,650 with all



The designers at Infiniti have embraced their performance philosophy with the new Q70.'

standard models coming equipped with rear view cameras, front and rear parking sensors, Connectiviti+ navigation, 18inch wheels and ventilated leather seats: enough to make question all those who part with much more to receive much less when purchasing from the other top luxury

The Infiniti Retail Group was formed in 2014 after taking over the operation of six major UK sites.

Nevertheless. they are an exciting breath of fresh air into the UK car premium segment and their sports and performance credentials are backed up by it ties to Red Bull Racing and the British Touring Car

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Well worth it.



### Smart, well put together, stylish and sensible but little pricey

By Matt Joy

The changes might be minuscule, but the S6 remains an absolute tour de force for those who can't live without a big V8 in their lives.

Audi has pressed the refresh button on the full A6 range, so the muscle-bound S6 saloon and Avant estate get the same (tiny) makeover. The grille now has twin bars running across it instead of single, thicker ones, and the headlights, bumper and air inlets have been slightly reshaped.

Don some X-ray specs and you'll see adaptive air suspension set to 20mm lower than the standard A6, while the brake calipers are now matt black, the rear diffuser has an aluminium-look blade and the full-LED headlights are ever-so-slightly slimmer.

The wider changes to the base car have made it a better-looking platform for the S and, in 2015, the RS development teams to deal with.

Side skirts that jut out more prominently, 19-inch twin-spoke alloy wheels and those flashy headlights give it great window shopping appeal.

But the S6's civility is stuffed deep down inside its bag of

tricks and there's no getting rid of it. At first glance this could just be an S-line spec A6, and its relative understatement is one of the qualities that help it sell so well.

In finest fast Audi tradition you can choose an estate model as well as the saloon. The wagon is a bit heavier, not that you'll notice unless you take it on a track day, but it's prettier and as roomy as an empty shed

### Quality

The question marks have to come further forward, in the passenger zone. With such shapely seats and high-quality leathers cocooning you like a Persian prince, the S6 is better for luxuriating than it is for folding the seats down and throw-

ing a load of planks into.
It's just too well-appointed for that.

Turbocharging a V8 gets you lots of things; power and speed being two. The S6 is as rapid as the people who take used plates away at all-you-can-eat buffets, and it doesn't feel particularly like a turbocharged engine. It pulls harder and harder with a barrel-chested bellow as the revs rise, a

lot like the engines of S-car generations past.

Grip and traction are beyond what you'd ever be able to exploit on the road. The way it drags itself so violently but so steadily out of tight corners is uncanny. G-force has never

been so unthreatening.

Most roads simply aren't big enough for the S6 to stretch its legs, but at normal speeds it's as stable as Avers Rock Sure, it's firm over bumps on its huge (optional) 21-inch wheels, but if history has taught us anything it's that Audi buyers don't tend to mind sacrificing ride quality for aes-

At £56,000, the saloon is not a cheap car. And at that price Audi kindly leaves a lot of the technology and luxury that you're likely to want on the options list, so quickly totting up beyond £60,000 is a given.

It's big, hugely capable and prestigious, but smaller premium-brand cars that will do the job just as well could offer a much better value alternative.

The S6 is a gentleman's express; a large, powerful and long-legged car with the ability to cross continents at speed without breaking a sweat.

It's not particularly affordable or cheap to run, but it is

very lovely.

If money is no problem and the new looks light your fire more than ever, this is a solid choice that won't leave you disappointed.

This car summed up in a word: Suave

If this car were a .... suit, it would be from Marks & Spencer. It's smart, well put together and stylish, but eminently sensible.

### **TESTED**

Audi S6 Saloon, from £56,000

Engine: 4.0-litre turbocharged petrol V8 producing 444bhp and 406lb/ft of torque

Transmission: Eight-speed automatic driving all four wheels

Performance: Top speed 155mph, 0-62mph in 4.4 seconds

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Vauxhall New Corsa Sting 1.2i 70PS: Urban: 42.8(6.6), Extra-urban: 62.8(4.5), Combined: 53.3(5.3), CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 124g/km.#





### BMW's new hybrid to be bright star in 3 Series collection

By David Banner

With its pure electric i-cars already unleashed, BMW is preparing to enter the plugin hybrid market with its 3 Series - but you'll need to be a little patient.

From the outside, there's almost nothing to distinguish the PIH from any other 3 Series - and that's exactly the intention. Designed to fit neatly into the rest of the range rather than being a standalone model, the 3 Series PHEV has all its changes under the skin.

Under the bonnet, there's a new generation 2.0-litre turbocharged petrol engine delivering 180hp while, at the rear, there's a substantial battery pack powering an electric motor up front to give a combined total of 245hp, using technology derived from that used in the i3 and i8 pure electric

The aim is to deliver performance in line with the 328 model, but with substantially better fuel consumption and emissions

### Overhang

If you want to know what the 3 Series looks like, then just peer out of your window; it's the archetypal compact sporting saloon with its short front overhang, square-jawed nose and generally slightly aggressive demeanour.

That's exactly what the thousands of people who buy one every year want however, and despite the changes underneath, you won't be able to tell the PHEV version from any - apart from the badges of course.

Adding a load of bulky technology to an existing car comes at the cost of space, but BMW has done a good job of minimising the impact.

The only noticeable change is in the boot, under which

sits the battery pack and associated components.

The upshot is the boot floor is raised by 35mm, and while

that's obvious reduction, the boot still looks pretty spacious.

A lot of thought has been put into making the PHEV drive

as well as a regular 3 Series and be able to suit all kinds of driving conditions, so there are a number of modes that change the whole operation of the system.

Start it up and it operates silently, going straight into pure EV mode unless the temperature is below 10 degrees . Celcius.

### Operation

You can switch between Comfort, Sport and EcoPro modes as normal and this will vary the operation of the engine; either being silent unless required, working with the electric motor for maximum performance or being used as a range extender when required.

Even better is the Proactive Driving Assistant which scans

your route if you've used the sat nav and s itches the driving mode for you for maximum efficiency.

The upshot is that the 3 Series PHEV drives with the same responsiveness and vigour as the standard car; acceleration is pleasingly brisk in pure electric mode and usefully rapid when motor and engine combine.

It remains great fun to drive at pace too, with no apparent

compromise

This is still a prototype of course, so prices and specifi cation are some way off. However BMW has said that it will be priced close to the equivalent petrol and diesel models. which could make it the pick of the range; fuel economy and emissions better than the diesel with performance on a par with the sporty 328i petrol



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## **Gunners go ballistic to rout Villa**

Go for double

glory,

Smith

DEAN SMITH will challenge Walsall to make it a Wembley double this season by reaching the League One play-offs. The Saddlers boss knows there is still plenty to play for with his team just four points outside the top six.

And with 10 league games to come between

games to come between now and the club's date at now and the club's date at the home of English foot-ball in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy on March 22, Smith feels his side can still make their mark.

can still make their mark.

He said: "It (reaching
Wembley) does not take
any pressure off at all because we want to go there
twice. We are only four or

five points off it and we have, I think, nine games in the next six weeks, so it is going to be a busy period."

while his focus is now shifting back to the league, Smith insists Walsall will be going all out to win when their big date at Wembley comes around.

"I have been to Wembley and led a team out at Wembley – and got beat," said Smith, who captained Leyton Orient in their 1-0

loss to Scunthorpe in the 1999 Third Division play-

off final, "It is not a nice off final. It is not a medplace to go and lose.

"But it is a long way off, we have a lot of games to go before we get there," said Smith.

Early score

is gr-eight

Droitwich 0 Bloxwich 8
SCORING started even
earlier than last week with
Adam Baldwin getting his
first of four after 24 seconds. It took a while for
Bloxwich to get their next
goal but once it came the
team played well defensively with Mark Brooks in
goal making some excellent

goal ,making some excellent

At half time, Bloxwich's 3-0 lead meant they looked good for the three points but wanted to push hard in the second half to get more

goals.

They managed this with central defender Steve Mallows roaming up front to score his first hat-trick in Bloxwich colours and Matt

Whitehouse getting another well-worked deflected goal.

Next week's game against top of the league, Old Wulfs, was in the back of the Blox-

wich players heads as they need to win this match to

have any realistic chance of finishing top of the league.

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Jack Donnelly Cup Round Two
GS Rockets 3 Swan FC 0

Jack Donnelly Cup Round Three
Anchor FC 3 Erdington Star 0

Danny Donovan Cup Round One
Pelsall Villa Colts 2 Dr.Johnson 4

the victors

for Blox

Arsenal 5 Villa 0
VILLA were sunk by a second-half spree
that saw Arsenal close the gap on the Premier League top four.
And while Villa's goal drought continues,
of equal concern for Paul Lambert will be
the ease with which the Gunners ripped
apart his team's defence.
Obinic Gineral with the Curpers abord on

Olivier Giroud put the Gunners ahead on

Olivier Giroud put the Gunners ahead on eight minutes.

Following an improved spell by Villa, whose last Premier League goal came against Manchester United on December 20, Ozil doubled Arsenal's lead early in the second half with another well-taken break-away finish.

Theo Walcott scored his second in as many games to make it 3.0 on 63 minutes.

many games to make it 3-0 on 63 minutes, with Santi Cazorla adding a fourth from the penalty spot before full-back Hector Bel-

lerin rolled in his first senior Arsenal goal

lerin rolled in his first senior Arsenal goal in stoppage time.

The visitors were cut open on eight minutes as Arsenal took the lead. Ozil's expert volleyed pass from the centre-circle over the high Villa backline allowed Giroud to race clear. The France forward kept his composure, carrying the ball into the penalty area as Jores Okore tried to get back to cover, before chipping an angled, left-foot shot across Brad Guzan and into the bottom right corner.

Villa had settled into a spell of possession, without making progress in the final third, when Arsenal suddenly sprung into life again on 26 minutes.

Cazorla weaved to the edge of the Villa

penalty area and sent a low shot goalwards, which beat Guzan but cannoned off the foot of the left-hand post.

Arsenal thought they had doubled their lead when Ozil exchanged passes with Cazorla before lashing the ball past Guzan. However, the assistant referee on the near-side raised his flag against the Spaniard.

On 41 minutes, Villa were close to breaktive their said days.

ing their goal drought when a bullet header from Andreas Weimann was saved brilliantly at point-blank range by David Os-

liantly at point-blaim lange —
pina.

Villa had, though, set an unwanted record of some 570 minutes without a league
goal, which continued to rise as the Clock
End ticked into the second half.
Arsenal doubled their lead on 56 minutes.

Walcott broke down the right, feeding Giroud, who laid the ball off to Ozil to clip a

Arsenal were in cruise control, and went 3-0 ahead on 63 minutes. Walcott collected

a throw-out from Ospina, and darted for

The England forward, who was out for the best part of a year with a knee injury, exchanged passes with Cazorla before tak-ing the ball inside at the edge of the Villa penalty area and then dispatching it into the right corner.

Villa, just three points above the relega-tion zone, made a double change.

Arsenal were awarded a penalty on 75 minutes when Guzan upended substitute Chuba Akpom, and although the American got a hand to Cazorla's spot-kick he could not keep it out.

In stoppage-time Bellerin stroked home a fifth from just outside the box.

# Wood is Aquaforced out of Vase running

WOOD'S Wembley dream is over for another year as an all round professional performance by Shaw Lane condemned them to

Wood were put under pressure from the off, the first attempt coming on 10 minutes when Lee Morris charged down an attempted clearance, ran on and fired just too high.

Football Football

and fired just too high.
Wood's first effort on goal
came when Jamie Sauntson's header down was well
held by keeper Ben Gather-

On 20 minutes Kelsey raced into the right of the box, cut back inside before Sauntson stopped him with a superbly timed challenge.

The best chance of the game two minutes later saw Andre Gonzales thread a ball through left of centre to find Ben Evans, his first time ball into the left of the box released Currithers in on goal, Gathercole racing from his line to smother the shot.

The turning point of the game came as Wood gave away a silly free kick. The ball was delivered into the centre of the box, Faultless was quickly off his line but collided with an attacker and work down with blood and went down with blood and went down with blood streaming from a cut over his right eye, play was al-lowed to continue however, and Matt Thornhill glanced a header in. Faultless was replaced by Mario Kisiel.

The incident took the heat out of the game, but then on 36 minutes Anton Foster ran at the Wood defence and released Thornton into the box, he took the ball past the advancing Kisiel but was forced wide, scor-ing from a tight angle to put Shaw Lane firmly in charge.

From the restart Wood put the home defence under

intense pressure, winning three corners but from the last a ball out of defence re-leased Luke O'Brien wide left to race 60 yards before being stopped by a superb Craig Deakin challenge.

being stopped by a supero Craig Deakin challenge.

Wood came out at the Supero Craig Deakin challenge.

Wood came out at the Supero Craig Deakin challenge.

From a corner the ball was easily cleared and found its way to Fox, he cut back inside and curled an exquisite shot into the far corner to put the game beyond Wood. It got worse on 55 minutes when from a right wing corner Stefan Holt headed home at the near post.

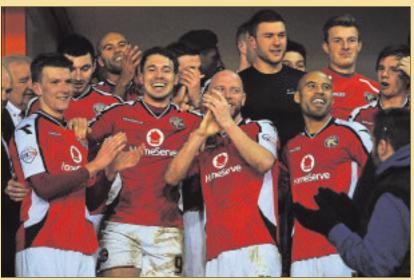
Back came Wood and a minute later Currithers cut in from the left, his vicious low drive pushed away by Gathercole at full stretch.

Wood still looking for

Wood still looking for at least a consolation put Lewis Taylor Boyce clear on the right of the box, his low drive was charged down by Gathercole, he was first to the rebound but his follow-up effort was deflected.

low-up effort was deflected.
In injury time Lady Luck
finally changed her allegiance, Taylor Boyce made
space for a shot on the right
of the box, the ball deflecting off a defender over the
stranded Gathercole to nestle in the far corner.
Show Lace of through to

### Downing following family tradition to Wembley



The players celebrate after earning a trip to Wembley with a 0-0 draw over Preston

FOR Paul Downing, running out at Wembley on March 22 will be more than just a dream day.

Because the Walsall defender will be upholding a family tradition.

Downing has watched on DVD the day in 1988 when his Uncle Keith helped Wolves clinch the Sherpa Van Trophy.

man will be looking to complete a unique Downing double.

"He played at the old Wembley and

I've got that game on DVD funnily enough," said Downing Jnr, whose father Adrian is the brother of the ex-Molineux midfielder and recent Albion coach

"I've watched that one a lot and I'm sure he will be there on the day with the whole family cheering me

"Adrian, my dad, is very supportive. I have a very supportive family and I'm sure on the day I will have a large following.

"Keith says I have to enjoy it

"I have been there before to watch a game but to play there is something totally different.

"I'm sure I will have a lot of memories and enjoyment from the occasion."

The Wembley atmosphere will be nothing new to the 23-year-old, who has made more than 100 Saddlers appearances since moving to the Banks's Stadium two-and-a-half years ago following his release from the Baggies, where he learned his

### Bloxwich get their revenge over Clee

Midlands League 3 West North Bloxwich 1st 17 XV Clee Hill 14

WHEN these two sides played earlier on in the season, Clee Hill were the victors by three, Bloxwich made sure they put this right second time they clashed in the Midlands League 3 game

This win means Bloxwich RFC have won four out of their last five league fixtures,

and the squad is starting to match its po-tential on the field and reap the rewards.

A lot of this credit must go to the coach-ing team of Ian Forrester and Rob Hunt, with the support of skipper Richard Geary.

Due to the conditions of the pitch the fixture had to be played at Ludlow RFC's ground.

The long coach trip didn't affect Bloxwich as they went to work straight from the kick

giving the visitors a good platform to work from in the line out, which was allowing Bloxwich to establish early territory.

Bloxwich used this well when they over-

loaded the midfield and went through the hands to give winger Gareth Maclean the opportunity to run for the line and touchdown for the first score of the match.

With the conversion missed Bloxwich had

to settle for a five point lead.

Clee Hill RFC got themselves together and competed in the loose a bit more and

established some possession of their own.
From this they went in for a score of their own and with the kick successful took lead away from Bloxwich by half time.
The pattern of the second half was very similar to the first, with Bloxwich RFC

time they moved up a gear when they could sense that their power plays were gradually wearing down the Clee Hill defenders. wearing down the Clee Hill defenders.
After being forced into touch Tez "two
trees" Greenwood secured front ball at the
line out, and Bloxwich set the maul and
trundled in from 10 yards out when flanker
Jamie Parkes rolled off to score.
With the control of the

probe the defence with some quick passing.

The Bloxwich pack the realised it was

With the conversion missed again Blox-wich regained the lead taking the score to

Both sides had chances that didn't quite go to plan, but it was expansive play that lead to the try of the match when Bloxwich winger Gareth Maclean dipped his shoulder and beat his marker to dash 80 yards for a

fantastic solo effort which took him over the line for the score.

This time the kick was converted by Sean Bottomer from the touchline to make the score 7-17 in Bloxwich's favour.

As the game wore on Bloxwich started to tire and in the final minutes the home side sneaked in from close out for a score of their own showing they were not quite done yet.

With the conversion good they provided the final score of the game which left it at 14-17 to Bloxwich.

This Saturday Bloxwich will be looking to reverse another previous result when the

host Eccleshall at King George's.

Kick off is 2.15pm. New players are always welcome, training is on Thursdays 7pm Stafford Road Sports Club.

### We mean business warns Taylor

ANDY TAYLOR promises
Walsall won't be going to
Wembley just to have a
party – as he set sights on
winning the Johnstone's
Paint Trophy.

The left-back hopes
making history by reaching the home of English
football for the first time
will allow the Saddlers
some of the spotlight
usually hogged by their
grander Midlands rivals.

But he insists the job

But he insists the job is only half complete and claims the focus must now be on winning the March 22 final.

"It's a terrific achieve-ment," he said.

ment," he said.

"We are looking for the next step now, we want our names in the history books. It's brilliant for the club, in the area it does get overshadowed a bit by the other clubs but hopefully we've done our little bit to get it in the limelight."

limelight."

Taylor believes the Saddlers stand a great chance of glory if they can replicate the performances which saw them beat Preston 2-0 over two legs in the Northern Area final.

final.

The 28-year-old has played his part in a defence which has only conceded twice in the competition so far and is eager to grasp the rare opportunity of winning a trophy.

### Paint the Banks's red again

ANDY TAYLOR hopes Walsall's Johnstone's Paint Trophy heroics can get the Banks's Stadium rocking more regularly.

The Saddlers were backed

by a capacity home crowd in the nail-biting Northern Area Final second leg with

Preston.
The attendance of 10,038 was only the fourth five-fig-ure crowd in the last decade and more than double the club's average attendance this season of just over

4,000. Left-back Taylor hopes the attention garnered by the run to Wembley will en-tice more to come and watch

tice more to come and watch regularly.

He said: "We've put the club on the map a little bit and hopefully it'll encourage a few more to come down.

"Ao a bloom you went to

"As a player you want to play in front of good crowds play in front of good crowds—as soon as we ran out for the warm-up you could feel the atmosphere building. "You get that buzz and if you can have it every week it would be brilliant."

### Crouch signs for two years

PETER CROUCH and Glenn Whelan have signed two-year contract exten-sions with Stoke.

sons with Stoke.
Former England striker
Crouch had been linked
with a move away from the
Britannia Stadium with his
existing deal due to expire in
June, but is now committed
to the club until 2017.
The 33-year-old joined
Stoke from Tottenham in

The 33-year-old joined Stoke from Tottenham in 2011, while Ireland midfielder Whelan, 31, has been with the Potters since 2008, helping them win promotion to the Premier League later that year. to the Pre-that year.

Manager Mark Hughes said: "We've been talking to both players for a while."

# 

Aquaforced out
Wood's FA Vase

dream is dashed Page 51

**Family way** Downing carries on Wembley tradition

Page 51



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### Bonser is urged to end his exile

DEAN SMITH is "over the moon" for Jeff Bonser – af-ter revealing he tried to get the chairman to end his Banks's Stadium exile for Walsall's night of Wembley redkoning.

Walsall's night of Wembiey reckoning.

The Saddlers chief has not attended a home game in close to five years because of fierce criticism he has re-

ceived from supporters.

And Smith – never slow to credit Bonser's backing – was keen for him to break to credit Bonser's backing - was keen for him to break that long absence and see the Saddlers make history by booking a first Wembley appearance.

A 0-0 draw in the second leg of their Johnstone's Paint Trophy Northern Area final with Preston sealed a 2-0 aggregate win.

Smith again paid tribute to the key role Bonser has played during his time in the managerial chair. "I'm over the moon for the chairman, he is integral," he said. "He was not there on Tuesday, he did not want to take the focus off the players. I had been trying to get him to come. "He has been integral to

"He has been integral to everything which goes on here. I am really pleased for him and the board of directors to go there."

Bonser remains a familiar figure at the club's training ground and the Banks's during the week, but has stuck by his self-imposed exile.

### Khaisa ease into top spot

Khalsa 3 Cradley 0
SPORTING Khalsa moved into top spot in the West Midlands Premier Division with a comfortable victory over neighbours Cradley.

All of the damage was done in a first half in which the home side dominated.

The breakthrough came on eight minutes with Wherton picking up the ball in midfield and delaying his pass perfectly to find Craig Bannister who surge forward and finished it.

The match was effectively sealed as a contest thanks to two quick goals just after the half-hour. First, Robinson bundled home from a convent hefore. Night Const.

the nair-nour. First, Robinson bundled home from a corner before Nicky Campbell slotted home a penalty after Mensah Kinch was felled.

In the second half Khalsa were unable to build on their three-goal advantage, even after Cradley keeper Jones was sent off.

### Aldridge take over game after early b

League Fixture - Midlands 5 West (North)

League Fixture - Midlands 5 West (North)
Aldridge 26 Church Stretton 9
ALDRIDGE did their promotion ambitions
no harm at all with this emphatic victory
over league leaders Church Stretton.
Apart from a glitch right at the start they
took the game by the scruff of the neck and
held on to it right up to the final whistle.
It was primarily a forward battle with
both sides slugging it out throughout to
gain the ascendancy and as the game developed it was the home side that inexorably oped it was the home side that inexorably gained control.

Aldridge, fielding the ball from the kick-

off, managed to contrive an offside infringement which the visitors' fullback Tim Downs had no difficulty converting.

From that set back it took some 10 minutes for the home side to post on the score-board. Controlling possession Aldridge worked play up field to establish one of the few passages of goal line pressure in the whole match.

As the resulting ruck crabbed inwards to-wards the posts the ball was swiftly moved

to flanker Lea Ross who crashed over between the posts.

Full back Alex Yates added the conver

run back have fates added the conversion which gave the home side the lead which they never were to relinquish.

Downs and Yates swapped a couple penalties apiece making the score 13-9 at the interval and it was heralding more of the same in the second half.

Now with the slope and breeze advantage Aldridge gained far more of the territorial spoils.

The visitors were forced to change tack and attempted to break out by bringing

their wide-men into play but the dogged defence of the Aldridge three-quarters made it increasingly difficult for them to clear their

The incessant pressure began to pay div-

Two more Yates penalties increased the margin and with five minutes remaining a wayward clearance kick was left bobbing within the visitors 22 allowing Aldridge winger Nick Yates to scoop it up and wrong foot a floundering defence to touch down close to the posts. close to the posts.

Alex Yates converted to seal the victory.

### Trailing Whitby triumph

Whitby 2 Rushall 1
WHITBY Town narrowly defeated Rushall Olympic despite trailing for the majority of the second half.
The home side's top scorer, Steven Snaith, headed in to equalise before Dale Hopson fired in a superb winning goal 11 minutes from time.
The Pics were looking to avenge their 5-1 home defeat to their opponents in

feat to their opponents in the Evo-Stik Premier back in October.

in October.

Josh Craddock was unlucky to see the wind play a huge factor in keeping his header from crossing the line after hitting the inside of the post

line after hitting the inside of the post.

Aaron Williams ensured the visitors went in 1-0 up at half-time, racing onto a through ball from Carl Palmer two minutes before the break to fire home his 23rd of the season.

Snaith atoned for this miss in the 74th minute as he headed home substitute Robert Nolan's cross to pull

Robert Nolan's cross to pull the hosts back level.

the hosts back level.

Craddock shot wide late on but Hopson fired into the top corner to hand Whitby all three points and send the Pics back disappointed.

# ES GRABS

Walsall 1 Gillingham 1

### **ASHLEY Grimes fired home his first** goal in nearly two years.

The goal was also his first for the club, which earned Walsall a much-deserved point against managerless Gillingham. For Grimes, the season starts now as he looks to kick on and win over the Saddlers faithful after a troubled spell.

The first half of this fix-ture was as one-sided as you will see with Dean Smith's men registering 10 attempts on goal – practically without

on goal – practically without reply.

They dictated tempo and showed all the desire and initiative but, incredibly, found themselves behind in the second period, through a suspiciously offside Bradley Dack goal. But they kept plugging away and showed the character needed to draw level almost immediately. ately.

### Horribly

They should have won it when Romaine Sawyers blazed horribly over minutes later, but Smith can be pleased with the performance even if he was left scathing at the result.

The boss made one

The boss made one change from the side that secured the aggregate win over Preston.

In came Ben Purkiss at right-back for James O'Con-nor as the Saddlers stuck with their favoured 4-2-3-1

system.

And it was Walsall who started brightest with some neat build up play sending Anthony Forde galloping away down the right flank. The midfielder sent in a teasing low cross which

### Football

Sawyers had time to control by the penalty spot.

But with the Banks's Stadium waiting for the net to burst, Sawyers scuffed a shot which was easily claimed by Stuart Nelson. Paul Downing saw a curling shot from the edge of the box brilliantly tipped around the post by Nelson. From the resultant corner, a Tom Bradshaw volley was spectacularly cleared off the line by Cody McDonald.

Walsall were doing everything right but just seemed to be missing that bit of composure in the final third. Gillingham were offering next to nothing as an

fering next to nothing as an attacking threat with a John Marquis shot from 25 yards sailing wide and over.

Smith replaced James
Chambers with James
O'Connor at the break.
The second half was
proving to be a drab affair
with Walsall suddenly findwith waisan suddenly inding themselves behind. A long ball over the top from John Egan seemed to catch the Saddlers back line by surprise and Dack raced through to score.

Minutes later Walsall drew level through Grimes.



Walsall's Anthony Forde running past Gillingham's Doug Loft at Banks's

### Saddlers meet **Robins in final**

WALSALL will face Bristol WALSALL will face Bristol
City at Wembley in the final of the Johnstone's Paint
Trophy following the Robins' 5-3 aggregate win over
Gillingham.
City looked well on their

way to their first trip to Wembley since 2008 after taking a 4-2 lead from the first leg

The final is on March 22.

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